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40p

Doctors keep president under observation for heartbeat irregularity

Bush running America from hospital bed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush stayed in hospital yesterday, still suffering from the irregular heartbeat that he developed while he was jogging on Saturday afternoon. The White House had said that he would be discharged in the morning.

Eager to present a picture of business as usual, officials emphasised that tests showed that Mr Bush, aged 66, had not suffered a heart attack or any permanent heart damage and he was running the nation from his hospital suite.

Visitors said he looked and felt well and was anxious to return to normal life. The White House said, however, that he would be kept in hospital until his irregular heartbeat, known as atrial fibrillation, had responded to treatment.

Mr Bush's illness sparked off a wave of speculation in Washington about the longer-term political consequences and renewed debate about the competence of Dan Quayle.

the vice-president, to take over in an emergency. Several commentators said the president would have to reconsider his stated determination to keep Mr Quayle as his running mate in 1992, in spite of the public's lack of confidence in the vice-president.

"As the weeks and months go by, he [Mr Bush] will have to answer to the American people on this issue," Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor and a possible Democratic presidential candidate, said. "Does he believe that the vice-president is the best person to succeed him if he's unable to continue?"

There was no immediate sign that the ailment would force Mr Bush to step down after just one term, but uncertainty over his health might inspire potential Democrat presidential candidates to take the plunge in 1992 rather than wait for 1996. "Clearly if we had any sign of a health problem and if we do have vice-president Quayle remaining on the ticket, the Democrats will make that a central issue of their campaign," Norman Ornstein, a political expert at the American Enterprise Unit, said. Whether the president will be told to cut back his frenetic schedule remains to be seen.

Mr Bush had gone jogging at Camp David, in Maryland, after returning from an engagement in Michigan earlier in the day. Martin Fierwater, the White House press secretary, said he felt tired and breathless after about 35 minutes and walked several hundred yards to the camp infirmary. After an initial check-up, he was taken by helicopter to the Bethesda Naval Hospital, in northern Washington, where he underwent tests.

Barbara Bush, who also stayed at the hospital, said yesterday morning that he had slept like a baby and felt "no pain, no strain". The White House said he was in great spirits although he was getting bored. "He's going to get a some dumb clicking the television channel changer," John Sununu, his chief of staff, said after spending two hours with

Mr Bush. "He was cantankerous, but watching a lot of good TV," Michael Boskin, his chief economic adviser, said he did not believe Mr Bush's stay in hospital would affect the markets.

The administration appeared determined to calm political and economic jitters, but some observers recalled a long history of administrations playing down the seriousness of presidential afflictions, most notably after the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan in 1981. It later emerged that Mr Reagan had nearly died.

Atrial fibrillation is a rapid, irregular heartbeat that can develop for a number of reasons ranging from a heart attack to a reaction to exercise or stress. However, Mr Fitzwater said: "There are no signs of heart damage and no evidence of a heart attack. The president has no other symptoms and feels completely normal. This is corroborated by the blood and x-ray tests." Mr Bush underwent a thorough check-up on March 27 and was found to be in excellent health.

He exercises almost daily. Although he looked haggard during the Gulf war, Mr Bush has had much less cause for stress in recent weeks, but he was angered last week by the restoration of allegations that the 1980 Reagan-Bush presidential campaign team had bribed Iran to delay the release of 52 American hostages until after Jimmy Carter's defeat.

As soon as Mr Bush was taken ill, Mr Sununu contacted Mr Quayle and Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, but Mr Fitzwater said there had been no question of the vice-president taking over temporary control.

White House jogger, page 10
Bush stumbles, page 14



He's just fine: Barbara Bush saying her husband had slept like a baby and was in no pain

Cyclone relief profiteering as 200,000 toll is feared

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CHITTAGONG

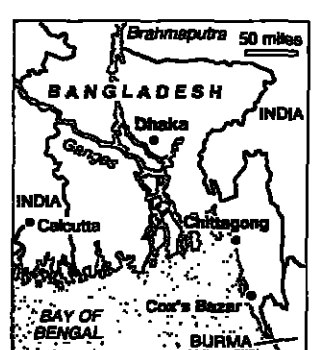
RELIEF operations in southern Bangladesh, devastated by Tuesday's cyclone, are in chaos as a leading aid official said yesterday that the death toll could climb to 200,000.

International supplies are slowly arriving but large parts of the coastal region remain cut off, according to Ali Hassan Qureshi, secretary general of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. He said: "Many places are inaccessible and the number of dead is anyone's guess. They're finding bodies every hour. It will definitely rise, maybe to 200,000."

He put the official death toll in one of the century's worst natural disasters at 125,651. He added that about 350,000 people had taken refuge in cyclone shelters. The homes of up to 10 million people were destroyed along the low-lying, ragged coast and offshore islands, government officials said.

With millions desperately hungry, and some already believed dead from starvation and disease, there is rampant profiteering in food and transportation.

In an attempt to restore order, the government yesterday gave full responsibility for co-ordinating the relief effort to the army, which has been conspicuously sluggish in responding to the emergency. It was no doubt awaiting a call for help from the civilian



drinking water may already be taking a toll, particularly as large numbers of children have diarrhoea. Hundreds of thousands of animal carcasses pose a worsening health hazard. And now there is corruption.

Lorry owners, trawlermen and food wholesalers are cashing in. A sack of dried rice has nearly doubled in price. The cost of hiring a lorry to carry supplies from Dhaka, the capital, to the southern city of Chittagong 180 miles away has risen almost 400 per cent. Hiring fishing trawlers, when on rare occasions they can be found, has become prohibitive. Some charities privately accuse food distributors of holding on to stocks to force prices up. The newly elected government seems bewildered and disorganised. For all the

Continued on page 20, col 4

Football's TV cliffhanger

ITV is prepared to pay a special fee estimated at £450,000 to provide live coverage of the football match tonight between Arsenal and Manchester United, if the first division championship is still in dispute.

The match between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool will be screened at 5pm. If Liverpool lose, Arsenal will be champions and the second

game will not be shown. If Liverpool win or draw, ITV will show the Highbury match at 8.05 instead of *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*.

● In the world snooker championship at Sheffield, John Parrott built up a 7-0 lead against Jimmy White. The best-of-35-frames final finishes today.

Reports, page 21

Ill wind blows trade into Sunday stores

By LIN JENKINS

UP TO 200 DIY stores that reopened for Sunday trading yesterday after a court ruling last week benefited from the cold and damp weather that kept many people away from traditional trippers' resorts.

In some cities, DIY stores, often up to four of them, as in Bristol, opened for the first time in months after the Court of Appeal ruling that temporary injunctions against opening were not valid unless local authorities obtaining them undertook to compensate for lost earnings should the councils eventually lose their case.

Stores that reopened reported brisk trade as people shunned tourist attractions

due to wind, rain and temperatures an average of 4C below the seasonal average. David Ramsden, controller of B & Q retail services, said: "We are still in the decorating season, and a wet, dull bank holiday means people stay in and work on the house. Later in the year, wet bank holidays do not generate trade as that is the time of year they buy garden furniture and the like."

The London weather centre forecast similar weather today, with south-east England staying showery, windy and cold, with Wales and the rest of England brighter but chilly.

Chains open, page 3

Airlines wage transatlantic caviar bun-fight

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THERE could be crossed caviar spoons at 37,000 feet this summer, as battle is joined between two British and two American airlines. The fight is for a share of the estimated 120 billion revenue-passenger miles which make the airway over the North Atlantic among the world's busiest and most lucrative.

American Airlines bought three routes into London's Heathrow from Trans World Airways for \$445 million (£262 million) last week to complete the four-cornered fight for the transatlantic market. The airline is engaged with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic and with its fellow American carrier, United Airlines.

Competition is likely to centre on the cheapness of fares for economy passengers, but for the \$3,000 one-way first

class traveller, the contest is more likely to be found in the aircraft kitchens.

Almost before the ink was dry on American's TWA deal, United, which bought Pan Am's Heathrow routes last month, announced that it was upgrading its first class service to include beluga caviar, Dom Perignon champagne and Godiva chocolates. Not to be outdone, British Airways has unveiled the perfect night-flight meal concocted by Anton Edelmann, the Savoy Hotel's maître chef des cuisines, who has created a light bite on the overnight flight from America's East Coast for those who want to sleep rather than eat.

The smoked salmon and crab, beef with vegetable spaghetti in coriander sauce, and fruit bowl take less than half the two-and-a-half-hour BA sets aside to serve its traditional dinner. But passengers will have to content themselves

with less expensive golden asetra or serra caviar and the more humble Veuve Clicquot champagne.

A spokesman for United said yesterday: "We are upgrading our service because we intend quite simply to make it the best in the world." American Airlines will be serving serra caviar and Pommery champagne.

American's first flight into Heathrow will begin on July 1 with flights from Chicago, Miami, Boston and New York's Newark airport. Its Los Angeles service starts on July 20, giving it 104 flights a week this summer.

Getting into that peak season slot was so important to American that it was prepared to pay TWA the same price for three routes to Britain as it had been prepared to pay for the original six, which were blocked by the American transport department.

Don't call us, Labour tells Ashdown

By SHEILA GUNN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FEUDING broke out between Labour and Liberal Democrats yesterday after Paddy Ashdown upped the stakes for a pact with either Labour or the Conservatives in a hung Parliament after the next general election.

The Liberal leader insisted that his minimum requirement would be a bill to introduce a proportional representation voting system followed by an agreed policy and legislation within the first full parliament. However, his terms drew jeers from Labour spokesmen who said they would not be ringing him after the next general election.

Mr Ashdown, in a bullish mood after last Thursday's local-council successes, totally ruled out the party's support for a minority government in exchange for a referendum on PR. "Because we all know that referenda are merely ways of delaying and dodging, Britain cannot afford to delay on this matter. The basis for a stable government, a stable partnership government is proportional representation," he said on BBC TV's *On the Record*.

Legislation for a fairer voting system would be the starting point of any deal between the parties, he added. "Once that starting point is agreed then of course we will seek to put together a programme for a full parliament, not something that lasts a month, two months, a year, two years, but a programme of policy and legislation that lasts for a full parliament."

But, in spite of moves within Labour's ranks towards electoral reform, John Cunningham, the party's campaign co-ordinator, said: "Don't call us. We won't call you." Speaking at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, Dr Cunningham added: "There will be no pacts, no deals."

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary and a supporter of electoral reform, said: "If Paddy Ashdown continues to thrash about like a bull he is capable of setting back the debate on PR for five years. I cannot think of a worse basis for a major constitutional change than a deal behind the Speaker's chair."

Ronald Butt, page 14
Leading article, page 15

London hospital pleads: 'Send us patients'

Teaching hospitals fear that health service reforms may price them out of business, Jill Sherman reports

A London teaching hospital is appealing to its former medical students across the country to refer patients to it, irrespective of "the contractual consequences", to ensure its viability.

Peter Richards, the dean of the medical school at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, claims that the National Health Service reforms will result in patients being driven away from central London teaching hospitals because of their high costs. Writing in the *St Mary's Gazette*, Professor Richards says that undergraduate teaching and clinical research at the hospital could be threatened because of the lack of tertiary referrals.

Hospital doctors were now largely bound by managers as to whom they could treat and GPs had little choice over where they referred cases unless they held a budget. "To many of us that strikes at the very heart of our ethical relationships with patients, a relationship without fear or favour, without bounds of riches or poverty," writes Professor Richards.

"My advice and invitation to Mary's men ... is that if your patients want to combine receipt of first rate service with contributing to the education of first rate doctors (like their own) send them to us, and somehow we shall resolve the contractual consequences."

"Publically and politically it would be madness to deny patients access to Mary's within the NHS if appropriate skills and facilities are available," he says.

The professor's sales pitch is likely to be echoed by other London hospitals which face the threats of losing teaching recognition and becoming financially unviable.

John Summerfield, director of clinical studies at St Mary's medical school, Continued on page 20, col 6

APPEAL FOR BANGLADESH

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the cyclone in Bangladesh.

International Refugee Year Trust is standing by to help the victims - but we cannot do anything without your help.

Please send whatever you can NOW. Patron: Mother Teresa

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£100 £50 £25 Other: £

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Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I enclose Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Postal Order ☐

Please charge my

Access ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐

Account: _____

Expiry date: ____/____/____ Signature: _____

(credit cards only)

Please send me more information about your work

Return to: International Refugee Year Trust, 29 City Business Centre, Lower Road, London, SE16 2JG.

T1 06/05/91 Registered Charity No. 802450

TODAY IN THE TIMES

SPORT

Jenny MacArthur lands the winner of the Badminton horse trials, three days of the ultimate in equine competition Page 21

EDUCATION

David Tyder on the girls' boarding school that was saved from extinction when the headteacher went overseas for pupils Page 29

HUMOUR

Bernard Levin is concerned for the sanity of those who would have us believe that the Mona Lisa's smile was all down to rheumatism Page 14

INSIDE

Rival to NUT

A new moderate teachers union to rival the left-wing National Union of Teachers is likely after talks at the weekend Page 20

Royal shake-up

The sudden departure of the private secretary to the Prince of Wales is an indication of the prince's desire to steer his own course Page 2

Adoption malice

Families who want to adopt children from abroad face more hostility from local authorities and government departments than seven years ago, a report says Page 4

Strike threat

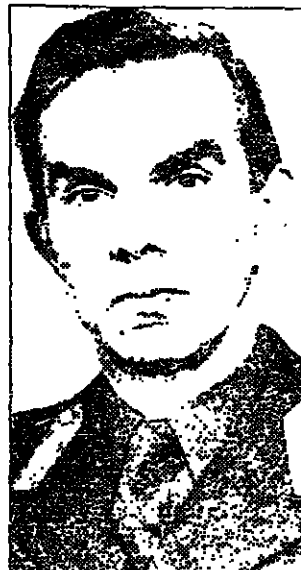
Pro-Soviet workers in Latvia, who are against secession from Moscow, are threatening to launch a general strike on May 14 Page 8

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down pressure

Prince clears out last vestiges of the cautious palace old guard



Ayr: could not impose his will on the prince

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE sudden departure of Sir Christopher Ayr as private secretary to the Prince of Wales is a dramatic indication of the prince's desire to shake off the last remnants of the old guard of palace courtiers and to steer his own independent course surrounded by advisers of his own generation and sympathies.

Sir Christopher, aged 57, is a former cavalry officer who commanded the Household Division, and who was brought in to impose some military discipline on the prince's chaotic office. He was immensely courteous and discreet, but was ultimately unable to impose his will on the prince. During his tenure of barely a year, the two men rarely saw eye-to-eye; a confrontation with the prince last Wednesday ended his occupancy of the £41,000-a-year post.

Sir Christopher is understood to have grown frustrated at what he

perceived to be an increasing division of the household into a prince's and princess's party. The princess in recent months has shown an increasing desire to establish her own public persona separate from that of the prince. She has formed an increasing appetite for high-profile public engagements of her own. Buckingham Palace said Sir Christopher was leaving "by mutual agreement", but it appears he had little choice in the matter. He is expected to clear his desk and go within a few days.

Commander Richard Aylard, aged 39, who succeeds him, may be expected to back the prince to the hilt in all his endeavours, which are now focused clearly on three main areas of public concern: education, the natural environment and the built environment. He was in the navy as a captain's secretary on board the carrier *Invincible*, later becoming a supply officer on the

frigate *Brazen*. He joined the royal household in 1985 as an equerry to the princess, and was promoted to assistant private secretary two years ago. He enjoys a close working relationship with the royal couple. Married with a six-year-old daughter, he is charming and affable, but dedicated and ambitious and has wide first-hand experience of the prince's areas of concern.

His appointment will raise a few eyebrows in the Queen's office, where her advisers tend to be of the older school and retain their posts for respectable periods of time. Increasing independence from the rest of the royal firm must be expected from the Prince of Wales's office.

The prince wants to associate himself with the movers and shakers of today who will grow with him into ultimate positions of high authority. He has become increasingly exasperated with a string of private secretaries who have been

cast in the traditional courtly mould of caution and discretion.

Sir Christopher is the third principal private secretary to leave the prince's office since 1985, breaking an ancient tradition that the heir's senior adviser stayed with him all the way to kingship. Both Edward Adeane and Sir John Riddell left after relatively short periods, unable to strike the necessary rapport, to return to their respective professions of libel lawyer and merchant banker.

The final straw that broke Sir Christopher's back and his employer's patience was a recent confusion of diary dates, when the princess found herself making one of her rare speeches on AIDS on the same day that the prince was railing against the lack of Shakespeare in schools, a clash of public appearances that no public relations adviser worth his commission would permit.

The prince's office is now com-

pletely cleared of the old guard. His deputy private secretary, who is accompanying him on this week's official visit to Czechoslovakia, is Peter Westmacott, a young foreign Foreign Office diplomat. He will shortly be joined by Hugh Merrill, who is leaving his post as director of the chairman's office at British Telecom to taste life lived by the seat of the pants at St James's Palace.

● The Household Cavalry regiments are expected to be unaffected by the government's "options for change" defence review after consultations with the Queen (Michael Evans writes). Under the review, the army is having to restructure its regiments because of the decision to cut manpower by 40,000. Many regiments face the prospect of amalgamation. The most vulnerable are those with only one or two battalions.



Aylard: will back the prince to the hilt

Prague visit, page 9

Heads told to get tough with parents in boycott

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers were advised today to take a tough line with parents who try to withdraw seven-year-olds from tests under the national curriculum.

The National Association of Head Teachers issued its advice after appeals from members faced with parents claiming to have found loopholes in the legislation. Organised groups have approached heads in Greenwich

and Lewisham, south London, while individual cases have arisen all over England.

The number of attempted withdrawals has increased since the collapse of the campaign to organise a boycott of the tests by teachers. Opponents of the standard assessment tasks (Sats) have also been encouraged by the success of a parents' boycott of similar tests in Scotland. Up to 85 per cent of children in

Glasgow have been withdrawn from tests.

Ministers are anxious to nip in the bud any such rebellion in England and Wales. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has threatened to take action against Nottinghamshire education authority if it fails to enforce the law against parents who take children out of school to avoid the tests.

Fred Riddell, a former teacher and chairman of the authority, said that there would be no legal action against Nottinghamshire parents, adding that if he had children in the system now, he would withdraw them. Mr Clarke, a Nottinghamshire MP, issued a warning that the government could force a judicial review to make the authority uphold the law.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said yesterday: "This has not become a major problem, but it is sufficiently serious to warrant guidance. I am anxious that we get the matter sorted out before next year."

Mr Hart added: "I have seen examples of parents requiring the exemption of children with documents drafted by some barrack room lawyer. We really cannot run the national curriculum, and in particular the Sats, if we are going to have parents firing in pseudo-legal letters like that."

The association has told its members that the 1944 Education Act, which states children must be educated in accordance with their parents' wishes, does not entitle pupils to be withdrawn from the

tests. Heads should also be wary of some parents using exceptions procedures in the 1988 Education Reform Act as a way to object in principle.

Allowing withdrawals would be the "thin end of the wedge", the association said. Only when a significant number of parents appealed and the situation in a school became intolerable should the tests be suspended, pending a decision by the local education authority.

Mr Hart said that experience of the tests for seven-year-olds, combined with new criticism of pilot tests in science for 14-year-olds, placed in question the whole future of the Sats, which were a key element of the national curriculum. "We are facing a crisis of confidence. The Sats are an easy target because they are not understood."

Mr Clarke has already dismissed the Sats for 14-year-olds as "elaborate nonsense", and some teachers involved in the pilots consider them too easy and time-consuming. Mr Hart said: "Simple testing may or may not be the answer, but I think most teachers would find that extremely unacceptable."

In the pilot tests, which cover all abilities in three bands, pupils are asked to make a nappy, list ways to send a message from Australia to England and identify the seasons from their characteristics. The tests are being taken at 150 schools, but are certain to be modified before they are implemented nationally.

Education, page 29

Embattled union looks for leader

The decision over who will next lead the most powerful union now rests with the members of the TGWU. Tim Jones looks back on the fight

FRATERNITY, one of the key words in the lexicon of the union movement, is being tested to breaking point as two implacable opponents battle to determine who will become general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' union.

Shaken by scandal, confronted by serious financial difficulties and suffering a decline in membership, the TGWU, controlled by a left-wing executive, remains the most powerful and influential British union. Historically, its leader, particularly when Labour is in government, walks the corridors of power and can shape national policy by casting almost a fifth of the votes at the party's annual conference.

For the past few weeks George Wright, union secretary for Wales, and Bill Morris, the deputy general secretary, have been crossing the country, visiting factories and addressing meetings. Now, with the ballot papers sent out, it is the union's 1.2 million members who will decide who will take over from Ron Todd.

Mr Morris, hoping to become the first black trade union leader in Britain, finds it hard to disguise his dislike of Mr Wright, who was defeated by Mr Todd in the last leadership contest which was marred by allegations of ballot irregularities. At a recent meeting in Sheffield, Mr Morris tore up a Socialist Workers' party pamphlet which suggested that as there was no real difference between the contenders, members should vote for him because of his colour. "If you want to cast a racist vote don't vote for me. I don't want a single vote because I am black. I resent it strongly."

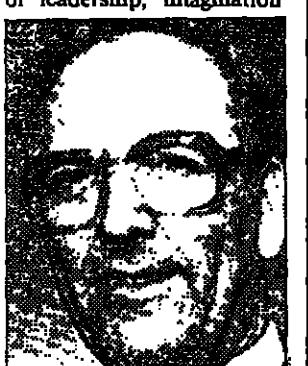
"There is a world of bloody difference between George Wright and me. I believe in lay membership democracy and George does not. I believe in the policies of the delegate conference while he undermines them."

Mr Morris continued: "There is only one simple test and that is to put the members first. There will be no return to the bad old days of old-fashioned bosses. The membership will prevail and if I have to fall out with

the incoming government in the defence of their interests then so be it."

During his campaign Mr Wright scarcely mentioned his opponent by name, although he has made it clear that he associates Mr Morris with the decline in the union's power. Membership has slumped in 10 years from a peak of about 2.3 million to 1.25 million.

Mr Wright said: "Too often the union has failed to play its proper role for its members. Too often it has been discussing the politics of countries like Nicaragua while its debts have been rising and membership falling. In many respects the failings of the union have been compounded by a lack of leadership, imagination



Wright: defeated in last contest by Ron Todd



Morris: "A world of difference between us"

and professionalism at the top. On too many occasions the union has looked both ways on a single issue, damaging our already fragile reputation within the movement."

Although supporters claim Mr Morris is well ahead in the race, some observers believe perceived racism could still work against him.

Philip Bassett, page 30

Universities want pay body extended

VICE-chancellors are pressing the government to extend the remit of the teachers' pay review body to include university lecturers (John O'Leary writes).

This year's pay talks for lecturers are again deadlocked and the vice-chancellors see a review body as their only escape from a cycle of low increases and deteriorating industrial relations. Ministers are resisting any extension because of the likely cost.

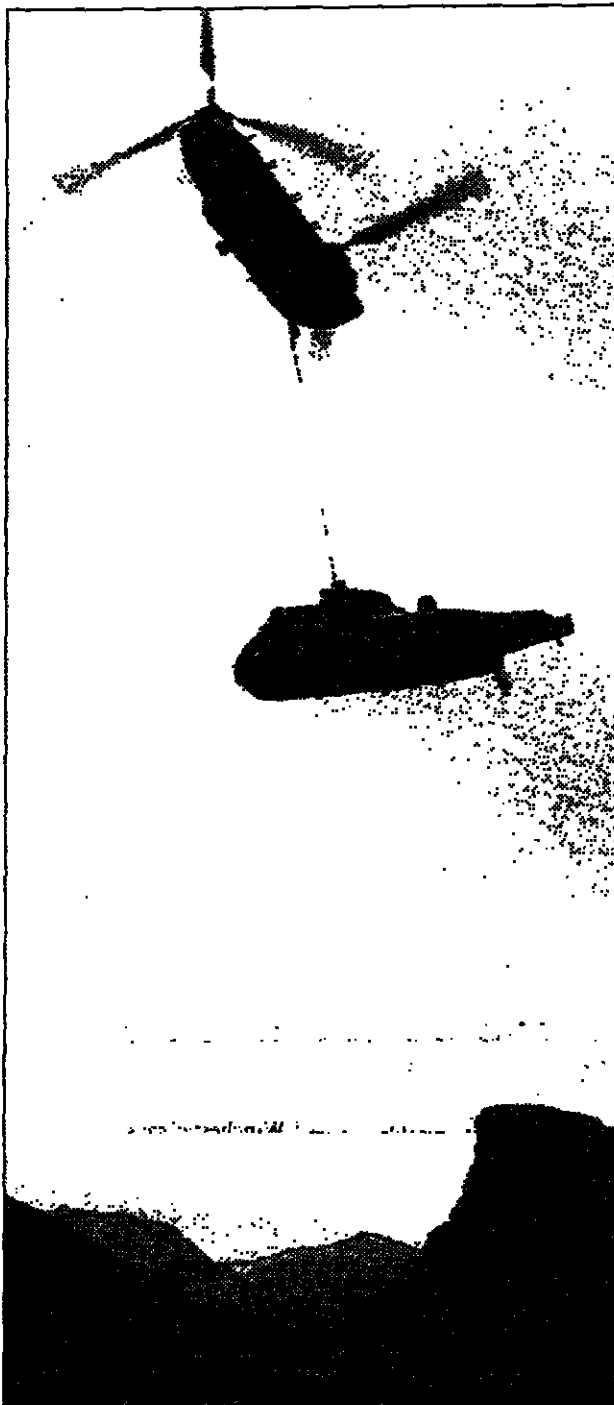
The vice-chancellors had already sought a meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to press for more money for lecturers before the teachers' pay review body was announced. Sir Edward Parkes, the vice-chancellors' chairman, has told Mr Clarke in a letter last week that his arguments for the teachers' body apply equally to university lecturers.

Clinical academic staff already benefit from the doctors' and dentists' review

body, although Sir Edward has warned Mr Clarke that universities could not afford to pay the 8.4 per cent awarded this year.

Mr Clarke appeared to rule out any extension in answer to parliamentary questions last week. He said that he would not contemplate applications to extend the principle of pay review bodies to any other group. If the majority of public servants had their status determined by review bodies, it would become impossible to manage services.

Members of the Association of University Teachers have voted narrowly in favour of an examination marking boycott over pay but Sir Edward told Mr Clarke that the action was unlikely to be implemented. Universities are to pay lecturers a 5 per cent increase on account, while they establish whether they are to be reimbursed for increases in value added tax or be given supplementary grants for pay.



Rescuing the rescuer: an RAF Chinook lifting the wreckage yesterday of a Sea King helicopter that crashed during a mission at the head of Eskdale in the Lake District. Last weekend ground-rescue teams had called in the Sea King from

RAF Petrevice Castle to recover two injured climbers, a man and a woman. It crashed moments after safely winching on board the woman, but neither the crew nor climbers were injured. It has been taken to Watney Island airport.

Mother sues BR over death of daughter

A MOTHER whose nine-year-old daughter fell to her death from an express train two years ago is suing British Rail for damages.

Jeannie Forrester's daughter Victoria is one of the 324 people who have died since 1972 when doors on trains travelling at high speed have burst open. The action is expected to become a test case for other families that have lost relatives in similar accidents.

Janet Bettle, Mrs Forrester's solicitor, who filed the High Court writ for damages, has criticised British Rail's attitude towards the incident. "All I ever got was a three-sentence letter denying any liability," she said.

MPs question police chief's directorship

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs are to question the home secretary this week about the decision of the second-in-command at Scotland Yard to join the board of National Car Parks after he retires. The company is under police investigation.

Kenneth Baker to be asked not only about the position of Sir John Dellow, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, but also whether guidelines should be introduced to determine the type of jobs suitable for retired senior policemen. Senior Civil Service officials need permission to move, after retirement, to companies with a risk of any conflict of interest. Sir John's is not the first

Ministers demand early tip-off over hospital job cuts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will be tipped off in future about cuts in hospital services after a series of embarrassing leaks of job losses which are turning the government's health reforms into a serious vote loser.

Regional and district health authorities will be told to inform regional liaison officers at the health department before making public any future job losses or service cuts. They, in turn, will keep ministers in touch with plans.

The "rapid response mechanism" comes after opinion polls suggested that cuts made by the new opted-out hospital trusts are becoming the most important issue with voters.

Party strategists will aim to at least neutralise the future of the National Health Service as a political issue in the next general election, as they believe they have done with local government finance.

Privately officials admit that they often learn about planned cuts from newspapers. The 600 redundancies at Guy's and Lewisham hospitals were followed by 435 job losses at Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals a month after the internal market system came into force.

Party strategists believe that Labour and the health service trade unions engineered the announcements of the job cuts to coincide with the local council elections in which the Tories lost 890 seats last week. They will argue that cuts at over-staffed hospitals and other health establishments can leave more money for patient care.

A green paper on preventative health care will be published later this month. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, will use the document, the focus of John Major's Chequers summit on

health, to try to turn the health reforms into a vote winner. The emphasis will be on improving the nation's health by introducing targets for lowering the death rates from childhood, cancer, heart and other diseases.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, who produced a leaked copy of the green paper recently, predicted that it would be full of targets but empty of government action to achieve them. "Far from getting them off the hook, it exposes them to a new barrage of criticism for the inadequacy of health policy," he said.

Nicholas Winterton, Conservative chairman of the Commons health committee, said yesterday he would defy Mr Waldegrave, by asking individual hospital trusts for copies of their business plans. "I believe when we write to them (Guy's and Bradford) the plans will be forthcoming," he said on BBC TV's *Scrutiny* programme.

Two die in fume-filled caravan

POLICE were yesterday investigating the deaths of two young women whose bodies were found in a fume-filled caravan. A third woman was revived after being found semi-conscious (Bill Frost writes).

Devon and Cornwall police said that the bodies were found on Saturday by a farmer's wife who noticed steam coming from a ventilation grill on the caravan at Bradworthy, Devon. Sharon Parnell, aged 19, and Joanne Babb, aged 20, are thought to have died after a build-up of carbon monoxide fumes from a water heater.

The third woman, Elizabeth Cook, aged 19, was recovering yesterday at North Devon hospital, where her condition was described as quite stable.

NHS trust plan

A second health service trust is being proposed for Bradford, where the trust that runs the city's two major hospitals has already announced about 300 job cuts. It would cover facilities for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, the disabled, elderly and children. Sandy Taylor, director of the city's priority services unit, will launch a public consultation exercise on the move this week.

Roadside risks

Research at Birmingham university has shown that people who live near motorways and major roads are up to four times more likely to be admitted to hospital with respiratory diseases, including asthma. Sarah Walters, of the Institute of Public and Environmental Health, showed that the correlation is similar to that linking hospital admissions to social deprivation.

Letters, page 15

CORRECTION

The Times reported from New York on April 27 that a Florida-based newspaper, the *Globe*, blamed the *Sunday Mirror* for being the first British paper to name the victim in the alleged Kennedy rape case. We have been asked to point out and accept that the *Globe's* report was inaccurate.

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150 من الامال

DIY chains open 200 stores after battle for Sunday

By Lin Jenkins

THE main DIY chains that have led the legal battle for Sunday trading were almost alone yesterday in exploiting their success in the courts last week as they reopened around 200 stores. Their triumph has left the law intact but virtually unenforceable.

The sole exception appeared to be Richard Branson's Virgin group, which tested the water by opening three more stores to add to one usually open on a Sunday at Marble Arch in London. Virgin megastore and the Games Centre, both in Oxford Street, and the megastore in Brighton attracted mostly foreign tourists.

David Pearson, general manager of one, said the decision to open was a commercial one aided by the court decision over DIY stores. "So far trading for us has been like a normal week-day and we are operating with a skeleton staff being paid double time. It will take a few weeks to gauge the demand." Other Virgin stores around the country remained closed.

B&Q and Wickes Building Supplies opened dozens more stores than usual after the decision by the Court of Appeal to lift temporary injunctions granted by the

High Court to Mendip district council and Kirklees borough council that closed two Wickes stores in West Yorkshire, and a B&Q store in Somerset. The judges said injunctions should not have been granted to the councils without their undertaking to pay the retailers damages for lost sales if the councils failed to win the legal battle.

On Friday the High Court lifted injunctions banning Sunday trading by Woolworths stores in seven places and B&Q and Co-op in Exeter. Negotiations with other councils where there had been agreements by various chains not to open concluded that



Ramsden: "Councils said no to undertakings"

most would not undertake to compensate for losses.

Up to 200 additional DIY stores opened yesterday, including branches of Homebase, Do It All, Texas Homecare, HomeWorld and Currys.

David Ramsden, controller of B&Q retail services, which opened a further 21 stores yesterday, bringing the total open in England and Wales to 181, with 53 still closed, said: "We have opened after going back to the local authorities and asking whether they are prepared to give us a cross-undertaking for loss of earnings. They all refused in those areas where we have opened, so we feel we have the right to trade." He refused to disclose trading figures beyond the fact that Sunday was at least their second busiest day.

B&Q is challenging the legality of restrictions in the Lords next month, claiming they are invalid under EC free trade provisions.

Branches at Bristol, Reading, Chelmsford, Leeds and Trowbridge were among those which reopened and other companies normally closed on a Sunday also opened. Do It All opened several branches, including one in Bristol where the manager, Andrew Curtis, said he expected to take £5,000 even though two other DIY stores in the city had also reopened.

Wickes opened in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, and did better than expected despite the weather.

The Shopping Hours Reform Council said most of those reopening were stores affected in the pre-Christmas campaign against Sunday trading, and not those which had not previously opened on a Sunday. Others were likely to await the case in the House of Lords or the outcome of Home Office talks which may lead to a Conservative commitment to some liberalisation of the law.

Any change would be fought by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign and some church leaders. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, called for the traditional Sunday to be maintained in the wake of last week's court rulings.

Dr Carey said he was not a member of the Lord's Day Observance Society, but did believe Sunday was special. "We have got to retain the specialness of Sundays. If we lose that, we will have destroyed something we will never be able to replace."

Branson shop caters for a few browsers

By Alice Thomson

ONLY the most stoic shoppers braved the rain in London yesterday to take advantage of the first Sunday opening of Richard Branson's Virgin megastore in Oxford Street.

A few people were browsing through the records in the five-storey shop, but trading was remarkably quiet. Mr Branson's decision last week to float the Sunday trading laws had obviously not yet been appreciated by the public. Rod McClellan, sales manager of the shop, said: "It is only the first day so it's hard to tell how successful we will be and we haven't been able to advertise it too much yet. Sunday is the busiest day of the week for our store in Edinburgh."

The staff seemed less enthusiastic. "I can tell you there are other things I'd prefer to do on my Sundays," one assistant said. "I've only had 13 enquiries today and on a normal

day I'd get about 60. It's very boring."

The American customer he was serving said that she was pleased to find the shop open. "I don't know why all shops don't open on a Sunday. After all, that's the only time a lot of people can shop," she said.

Most other shops in Oxford Street had not followed Mr Branson's lead and were closed yesterday. Only a few souvenir shops were trying to do business.

The shopkeeper of London Souvenirs said: "No one understands these Sunday laws. They should be sorted out and shopkeepers should be given the choice. I'd do much better than them."

Mary Harris, a sightseer who had come to London for the day, didn't agree. "Sundays are special, aren't they? They're a day of rest to spend with the family. You oughtn't to be gallivanting around the shops," she said.



Fare way to go: Ian Crowhurst, on a 1924 BSA sidecar taxi, donning his helmet yesterday at the start of the London to Brighton historic commercial vehicle run

Days of beer and scuffles over for Costa bad boys

BENIDORM, holiday capital of the Spanish Costa Blanca, has announced a £317 million five-year plan to transform its fish-and-chips image and rid itself of lager louts. That ambition has earned the backing of the Foreign Office, which has said that holidaymakers who tarnish Britain's reputation can expect no sympathy from British diplomats.

The former fishing village, which has evolved into a major holiday centre with 700 high-rise hotel and apartment blocks in only 25 years, yesterday gave notice of a crackdown on rowdiness as it prepared for its annual invasion of four million visitors, including one million Britons. Manuel Catalan, the Socialist mayor, said: "We have to change our image. Everybody in Britain has the idea that Benidorm is for lager louts and is only a town of fish and chips. That is not true."

"Ninety-nine per cent of English people coming here cause no problems. Lager louts are not from one nation only. Everybody drinks too much on holiday but the English are the ones who drink a little bit more than anybody else. Out of four million visitors in all, it could be only one thousand who make a nuisance of themselves so the percentage is very low. We do not want to convert Benidorm into a monastery but we want to change things."

In London, the Foreign Office is taking an even tougher stance since Margaret Thatcher urged the Spanish to impose jail sentences on the louts in 1989. A spokesman said:

Benidorm has announced a £317 million plan to transform its sun and chips image, reports Michael Horsnell

"Holidaymakers who break the law throughout the Mediterranean should expect to be severely dealt with by local courts and not rely on British consulates to bail them out."

Benidorm is in the vanguard of Spanish tourist authorities to have taken up the cry of King Juan Carlos, who complained about the behaviour of Anglo-Saxons on his holiday retreat in Majorca in 1987. Last year the town imprisoned 30 Britons for a variety of offences.

Yesterday, to the embarrassment of the image-makers, "Sticky Vicky", a blonde bombshell exhibiting extraordinary anatomical control, was entertaining a crowd of beer-swilling Britons in the Star and Garter off the Avenida de Madrid. Municipal representatives muttered darkly that her days were numbered.

The municipality plans to create a cultural and congress centre, parks and gardens with 1,000 palm trees, a golf course designed by Seve Ballesteros, cleaner beaches and improved security. The resort also has plans to deal with noisy mopeds and late-night discotheques, illegal street vendors and card tricksters, litter louts and the notion of a cheap-drinks happy-hour that often lasts all day.

Dave Hammond, aged 35, resort manager for Thomson's Holidays, said: "Our youth is much-maligned. Any teenager left unsupervised in a new environment will degenerate in a matter of days. British youth will be boisterous largely through the neglect of the operators who brought them here. We have developed a supervised youth programme. Give them things to do and then stay with them and they will turn out to be a credit to their country."

Reform of cathedral management urged

By Ruth Gledhill, Religious Affairs Correspondent

CLERGY running England's historic cathedrals rarely have the managerial skills and experience necessary to run a body equivalent to a commercial enterprise, the Dean of Winchester says.

Cathedral statutes are being stretched to breaking point and are in urgent need of reform, according to the Very Rev Trevor Beeson, speaking just days before a working party of deans and provosts meets to consider the issue.

The working party, set up 18 months ago and chaired by the Very Rev Wesley Carr, Dean of Bristol, will meet for the last time this week to decide whether to call for reforms at the deans' and provosts' conference next month.

Dr Carr said that the working party would examine Mr Beeson's proposals, adding: "The general feeling is that something must be done, not out of desperation, but because, at the end of the 20th century, cathedrals and churches are in a new situation and that needs to be examined."

According to Mr Beeson, whose cathedral is seeking £7 million for repairs, the consequences of bad management are often inefficiency, frustration and stress. In a sermon at Oxford university yesterday, he called for reform.

"The ancient cathedrals, which is where the most serious problems are to be found, are still governed by four or five clergymen who constitute the Dean and Chapter," Mr Beeson said. "Very few of these clergymen have the managerial and financial skills required for the effective running of the business side of cathedrals in the late 20th century."

He called for skilled lay people to be appointed to cathedral governing bodies,

and said that vital scholarship had been lost to the church because of deans and canons taking time to be amateur financiers and shopkeepers. "Lay administrators and accountants, who already have an advisory function in most cathedrals, now need to be admitted to chapters."

'Missile' in air-miss

AN UNIDENTIFIED missile-like flying object was being blamed yesterday for an apparent air-miss over Kent (Michael Evans writes). The pilot of an Alitalia jet carrying 57 passengers said that it passed within about 1,000 feet of his aircraft.

The object, which was spotted at 22:00ft, also produced a faint radar trace at the London air traffic control centre at West Drayton. Al-

though the plane was flying over an army firing range at the time, two weeks ago, the defence ministry said that the range was closed on that day. It added that remotely-piloted vehicles were sometimes used as targets for test firings but they never went to 22,000 ft.

The reported air-miss happened over the Lydd range, one of two infantry ranges in Kent, on Sunday, April 21, at 9.00pm.

MP asks actor not to make IRA film

From A Correspondent in Belfast

THE Rev William McCrea, Democratic Unionist MP for mid-Ulster, who has had three cousins murdered by the IRA, yesterday appealed to the actor Mickey Rourke not to make a film about the 1981 Maze prison hunger strike.

In a letter to Mr Rourke, the MP outlined how his cousins Robert and Rachel McLernon, aged 16 and 21, had died in a 1976 bomb explosion. Another of Mr McCrea's cousins, Derek Ferguson, aged 30, was killed by the IRA in Coagh, Co Tyrone, last month.

Mr McCrea's letter said: "Many of the hunger strikers who took their own lives were responsible for the deaths of innocent people. The hunger strikers chose to take their own lives. The innocents of Northern Ireland were never given that choice. Don't make this film."

Mr McCrea, who is a member of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party

and one of the negotiators in the Brooke talks, told Mr Rourke: "I just want you to know if you go ahead with this film, you're going to glorify something that is anything but glorious."

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday expressed confidence that an acceptable venue would be found for North/South talks involving Unionists and the Dublin government. It had been widely expected that a plenary session involving Northern Ireland's constitutional parties would commence at Stormont tomorrow, but because of arguments over the location of the talks process, the session might be delayed until Wednesday.

Preparations are in hand for the possibility of some of the North/South meetings being held in London. Dublin has also been mentioned as a venue but Unionists are resisting this suggestion.

Night an intruder begged earl for mercy

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

AN INTRUDER soon discovered he had picked the wrong place when he entered a Norfolk country house late one night.

The man set off the burglar alarm, which immediately brought forth the immensely tall and impressive-looking owner, who happened to be Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister and deputy leader of the Lords.

The 6ft 6in former Guards officer, aged 61, wearing a red dressing gown, had only been released the previous week from hospital after a hip replacement operation.

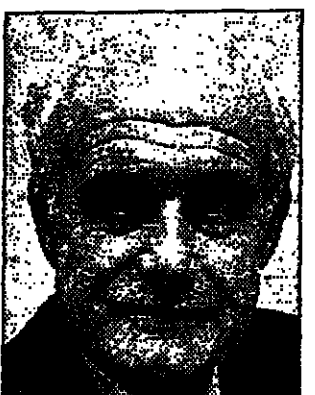
"I asked what on earth did he think he was doing here. It was 3 o'clock in the morning and I was hobbling around

with a stick, which I made use of when I met the intruder. I didn't know who on earth he was but I gave him a couple of clouts with my stick," the minister said.

The "clouts" left the man begging for mercy, whereupon the 13th earl grabbed his elbow and frogmarched him from the landing on top of the backstairs into the sitting room.

"He asked if I was a magistrate's justice and when I said 'no' he said 'thank goodness for that!' He had thought I was someone important. I didn't tell him I was the minister in charge of the police."

The House of Lords Home Office minister admitted his



Earl Ferrers gave man a "couple of clouts"

hair was standing on end but decided the best course was to sit the intruder down and keep him talking for as long as possible. He recalls the

conversation focused on pacifism. But worse was to follow for the minister before the police, responding to the alarm, arrived on the scene 20 minutes later.

The intruder got up and said he was going to kiss him. The horrified earl, more used to trying to control rebellious backbench peers, promptly ordered him to sit down again. Although the intruder was taken to the local police station, after discussions between the earl and police, it was decided that no charges should be brought.

"When the doctor said he thought it would be good for me to have a bit of convalescence, he didn't expect me to be tackling intruders," Earl Ferrers commented.

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Families who adopt foreign babies suffer 'official hostility'

By FRANCIS GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES who want to adopt children from abroad face more hostility from local authorities and government departments than seven years ago, according to a report today from the International Bar Association.

Some adoption agencies, particularly in South America and India, will no longer deal with UK families because they see the process as obstructive and racist. The report, which issues a warning that other countries may follow suit, concludes: "When prospective adopters feel ready for a family and positive about adoption and wish to be an international family by adopting from abroad, they get judgment instead of support."

The report says that families are told they are selfish not to adopt British children in need, and are given criticism instead of advice. "They are told they will be creating problems for a black child in a racist society."

The findings are based on more than 200 cases of adoption of babies in 19 different countries experienced by 163

families in the UK over the past 10 years. The research was carried out by NOP market research and paid for by the association's educational trust.

Margaret Bennett, chairman of the association's working party on international adoptions, delivered the report last week to The Hague Conference on Private International Law. The conference is studying changes to The Hague Convention to streamline regulations and help provided by countries for international adoptions.

Miss Bennett, who runs a law firm specialising in family law, said: "The report has identified ignorance, prejudice and apparently discrimination in the way adoption cases are handled. We need designated specialists around the country who are knowledgeable and sympathetic, including counsellors, social workers, and immigration officers."

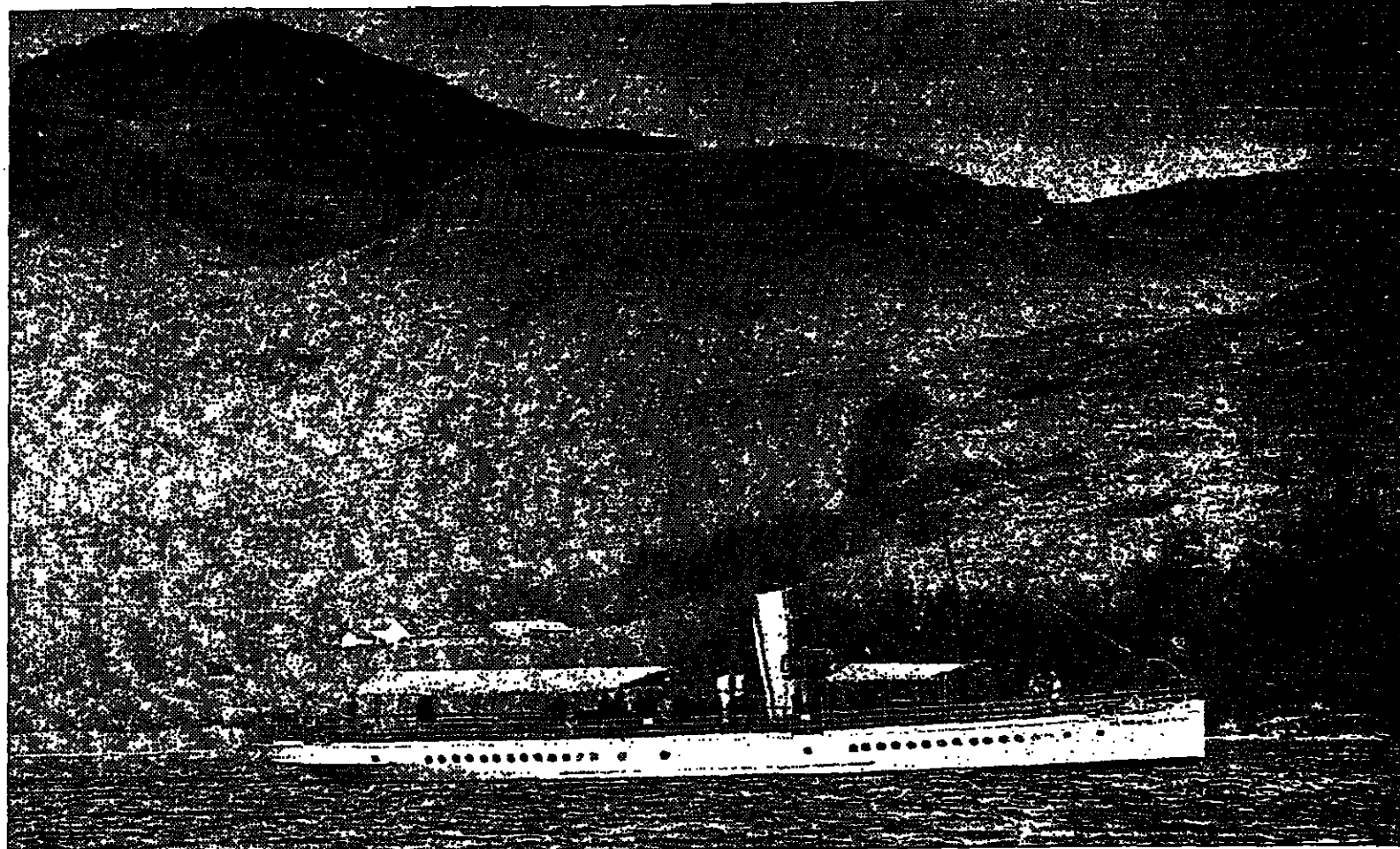
The report says that favourable local authority treatment appears to be given

to adopters in the Midlands, Wales, East Anglia, York, Humberside and Northern Ireland. It also seems to be given to white-collar and clerical classes children from Thailand and Colombia and families who adopted seven or more years ago.

By contrast unfavourable local authority treatment appears to be given to adopters in Scotland, large cities, the North-West and South-East, skilled and non-skilled workers, children from El Salvador, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Romania and Taiwan and those adopted within the past three years.

The report calls for a central authority in the UK as proposed by The Hague Convention to lay down procedures that should apply to all areas and all types of people adopting from any foreign country.

The 12 regional health authorities should set up one centre with up-to-date information. It also recommends counselling of prospective adopting parents by accredited counsellors.



Old lady of the lake: the SS Sir Walter Scott, the last screw steamer in use on a Scottish loch, which today starts a new season of excursions on Loch Katrine, in the Trossachs, after a winter refit. The cruiser, launched in 1899, can carry 350 passengers. The loch has

been used since 1859 to supply water to Glasgow, 35 miles to the south, and it is primarily the need to avoid pollution from oil spillage that the cruiser, which burns smokeless coal and has a jet condenser, has not been converted to diesel propulsion.

Island given fax of high-tech life

Kerry Gill meets the woman who runs a computer age village post office on Britain's most northerly island

LAURA Baisley may soon become bored with the joke that she was destined to enter the sophisticated world of information technology and telecommunications. Now manageress of a "telecraft" on Unst, the most northerly island in Britain, Mrs Baisley is said to have been introduced to the field of communications when she took on the job of cleaning a telephone box on the neighbouring Shetland island of Fetlar.

The telephone box stood outside the family home and she was paid £10 a year for giving it a quick sweep and polish once a month. Since landing the job of manageress of what has been termed the "village post



Baisley: new convert to information technology

office of the 21st century", she travels to Unst from Fetlar by boat every morning to run one of the Highlands and Islands' first telecrafts, more mundanely known as a Community Teleservice Centre. It is paid for by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and British Telecom and offers business and training services using computers, facsimile, data communications and other high-technology facilities to help local people.

The tiny telecraft, bristling with equipment associated with a mainland city business while lying on the same latitude as southern

Greenland, is next to the island's garage. It will officially begin running later this month but already locals are processing complex computer data.

Mrs Baisley, who completed an Open university course in new technology while running Fetlar's only shop and post office, said that the telecraft would be available to anyone who needed its facilities, whether to draw up fish farm accounts, predict crofting returns, compete for data processing contracts or even play the stock market. "There are about 1,200 people on the island and there has been an awful lot of interest from people with small businesses for doing their own accounts and using the fax. It also lets people enjoy a social mix and takes the monotony and loneliness out of working by themselves," she said.

The introduction of new technology to the islands will encourage more young people to stay rather than seek skilled jobs elsewhere. In an area where every job created ensures the future of the islands, Highland and Islands Enterprise is desperate for the scheme to succeed. Robin Lingard, director of training and development, said it was vital that local people were taught technology skills.

Mrs Baisley, who is still prepared to clean Fetlar's phone box while her husband runs the croft, said: "I had not used a fax machine until two weeks ago. Now I cannot understand how anyone could do without one."

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Man kicked to death

Police have launched a murder enquiry after a down-and-out "having a quiet beer with a friend" was kicked to death outside Wimbledon station, southwest London, a spokesman said yesterday.

Anthony Dolan, aged 38, unemployed, of Kingston Road, Wimbledon, died on the pavement, less than 300 yards from the police station, on Saturday night after a "ferocious" and apparently motiveless attack. Police are looking for a man aged 25 to 35 and a possible accomplice.

Murder charge

Ronald Milner, aged 36, a brickworker, of Stanford le Hope, Essex, will appear in court today charged with the murder of Sidney Benson, aged 38, of Chadwell St Mary, Essex, who was found strangled on Saturday night.

Yard wedding

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, aged 51, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, married Wendy McWilliams, aged 30, at St Mary's church, Henley-on-Thames, on Saturday.

Death crash

A woman motorist was killed and five people were injured, two seriously, when a car collided head-on with a lorry on the A2 near Dartford, Kent, yesterday.

Forest opens

The first of a number of small woodland parks planned by the Forestry Commission will open on Saturday at Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

Parents' union

Alex Owen, aged 57, a council worker and former soldier, of Maltby, North Yorkshire, has become the first man to join the Mothers' Union. He has vowed to change the image of the 115-year-old organisation.

Lefebvre school

Members of the Roman Catholic sect found by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was excommunicated, are planning to open a school for 12 pupils aged 7 to 13 at Highclere, near Newbury, Berkshire.

Portfolio prize

The winner of the weekly Platinum Portfolio prize of £4,000 is Robert May, of Paddington, London. The daily competition continues tomorrow.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw are: £100,000, bond number 6VS 602057, winning £100,000; £50,000, 5AW 111631 (Dorset); £25,000, 12AT 222843 (Middlesex).

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Free-spending councils face strictest cash controls yet

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE victors of last Thursday's local elections will face the toughest curbs on their freedom to raise and spend local taxes in the history of local government. The new council tax will not replace the community charge for two years and ministers know that its successful introduction depends on keeping bills low in the interim.

The process of setting next year's council spending targets will get under way this week with meetings between the local authority associations and Whitehall departments. Ministers are determined to ensure that councils stay within their standard spending assessments.

Up to now only councils with budgets of more than £15 million have been eligible for capping, limiting its effect to the big cities and the London boroughs. Ministers are considering extending capping to almost 300 councils, all of them shire districts and most of them under Tory control, which have escaped the capping net because of the budget rule. Removing the £15 million limit this financial year would have led to 88 councils being capped in addition to the 14 already named.

Local government leaders of all political parties now accept that universal capping is the only way in which the government can ensure that charge payers continue to enjoy the benefit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's £140 poll tax reduction.

This year the reduction was assured because it was announced after councils had set their poll tax levels. The government simply told them to cut their bills and announced a special grant to make up the shortfall.

From next April the additional £4 billion in central support for local government generated by the switch from poll tax to value-added tax will be channelled into the

overall grant pool distributed to councils. Without firm action, ministers believe that councils will mop up much of the extra money in higher spending and simply increase poll tax bills to make up the shortfall.

Extending capping will not, in itself, prevent bills rising next year. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has told the Treasury that the total amount of central grant to local authorities will have to rise too.

This year, for the first time in a decade, government assessments of the amount councils need to spend have come close to matching real spending figures. The broad equilibrium between council budgets and government targets must be preserved if bills are not to rise. If grant levels fail to keep pace with inflation councils will have to put up the poll tax to recoup the shortfall.

Under the new council tax overspending will lead to sharper rises in bills than under the poll tax. The community charge accounted for a third of council income, which meant that a 1 per cent rise in spending increased bills by 2 per cent. The new council tax will raise only a fifth of income so a 1 per cent increase in spending will lead to a 5 per cent increase in council tax. Labour is also putting pressure on its councils to keep spending down.

Ronald Butt, page 14



Avant le déluge? Mark Robbins of the RSPB on the Somerset Levels between Taunton and Langport. The society says that the land must be flooded if wildlife is to survive

Farmers blamed as wetland water dips to 'danger level'

FARMERS, conservationists, water officials and bird lovers are skirmishing over the future of the Somerset Levels, one of Europe's richest habitats for wild plants, birds and animals.

The battle over the 170,000-acre Levels, Britain's most important wetland, could test the government's commitment to protecting the countryside.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says that unless farmers allow water levels to rise the flats' population of wading birds will vanish within five years or survive, much diminished, only in nature reserves. "Farmers here are getting £1.3 million pounds a

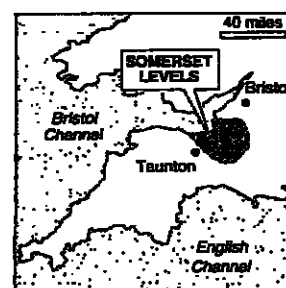
year in wildlife grants, but to little effect," said Mark Robbins.

The low marshy meadowland is between the Mendips ridge in the north and east and the Quantocks to the south and west.

Traditionally, the water level was managed to allow the grazing of dairy cattle during summer and shallow flooding during winter and spring - ideal conditions for wildfowl and ground-nesting wading birds and a wide variety of wetland plants. But changes in farming methods in the last few decades has upset that delicate ecological balance. With modern drainage systems, farmers can pump off winter

Low water levels are threatening many species of birds, plants and animals on Britain's most important wetland, reports Michael Hornsby

floods in a few days. Sheep can be grazed in winter and cattle put out to pasture earlier in the spring. Land can be reclaimed for cropping and herb-rich water meadows dried out and sown with more nutritious, artificially developed rye grass that would not stand heavy



flooding. Haymaking can be replaced by early cutting of grass for silage.

The RSPB says that the number of breeding pairs of lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank and black-tailed godwit fell from 578 to 258 between 1977 and 1987. The decline is believed to be

continuing despite less intensive farming in recent years. Brian Johnson, assistant regional officer of English Nature (formerly the Nature Conservancy Council), says wetland plants such as creeping jenny, marsh marigolds and marsh orchids are disappearing. Since 1987 about 27,000 acres of the Levels have been declared an "environmentally sensitive area" (ESA), and 16,600 acres of that is made up of 15 "sites of special scientific interest" (SSSIs). About half the 1,750 farmers in the ESA receive grants for curtailing farming activity.

Those arrangements are not linked to the maintenance of minimum water

levels. But conservationists feel they can press for stiffer conditions as "green" subsidies may be the farmers' only hope for long-term public support. It wants shallow flooding in all the SSSIs throughout the winter and a high water table through the spring and early summer. In the rest of the ESA, it wants the government to offer farmers bigger grants to allow high water levels.

Under pressure from farmers, English Nature is moving towards the National Rivers Authority's compromise in which levels would be raised in a few key areas. The RSPB says a fragmented approach could kill the conservation effort.

Watson leads City chess challenge

WILLIAM Watson, London grandmaster and Olympic silver medalist, leads the City of London chess challenge at Guildhall after two rounds, with a 100 per cent score (Raymond Keene writes).

In the first round Hector (Sweden) drew with Larsen (Denmark); Halifman (Ger-

many) adjourned against Sadler (Rochester); Suba (UK) drew with King (UK); Plaskett (UK) beat Arkell (UK); Davies (Israel) beat Wells (UK); Byrne (USA) lost to Hodgson (UK); and Watson (UK) beat Conquest (UK). In the second round Larsen drew with Hodgson; Wells beat Byrne; Con-

quest beat Davies; Arkell lost to Watson; King drew with Plaskett; Sadler lost to Suba and Hector drew with Halifman.

In Amsterdam Nigel Short has maintained his lead by drawing in the third round with Gary Kasparov, the world champion.

'Caring decade' off to an uncharitable start

VOLUNTARY organisations are under threat from a fall in donations as the recession bites, according to a report published today (Ruth Gledhill writes). One charity has already been forced to cut £2 million from its budget this year, the report, by the National Council for Voluntary

Organisations, says, and there are signs that voluntary bodies' work will begin to suffer.

Last year was proclaimed as the start of the caring decade, but instead ended with gloomy forecasts about the effect of economic recession on the voluntary sector, the report says. The council

deplores the lack of a new charity bill last autumn. The voluntary sector has repeatedly called for a well-funded charity commission with greater regulatory powers.

Central government funding fell from £2.2 million to £2.1 million in 1988/9. A rise in direct funding was more

than offset by cuts in grants. The council estimates that 5,000 training places have been lost in the voluntary sector, with organisations such as Fullempley, the Spastics Society and the Rathbone Society among the worst hit.

Letters, page 15



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Latvia leadership faces strike threat over independence

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN RIGA

PRO-SOVIET workers in Latvia, who are against secession from Moscow, are threatening to launch a general strike on May 14 unless the republic's government agrees to demands, which include signing the union treaty creating a new Soviet federation, the withdrawal of price rises and the cancellation of plans to return confiscated property.

The letter to the leadership this weekend was signed by "representatives of 42 work collectives" from Soviet-owned plants in the republic. The Soviet Communist party in Latvia is denying all knowledge of the move, but observers believe that it is the work of hardline communists. Latvia has numerous Russian workers, but previous attempts at a general strike against independence have been unsuccessful.

Together with the attack on Saturday on the "black beret" Soviet special force commander in Latvia, strike threats suggest that a new



offensive against independence may be beginning. Senior Lieutenant Czeslaw Mlynik was shot twice in the chest outside his flat on Saturday afternoon. The attack took place just after a special meeting of the Latvian parliament to celebrate the first anniversary of the declaration of independence, where Latvian leaders vowed to continue the struggle to realise independence. The council of the Latvian Popular Front last week declared that independence must be achieved by the end of next year.

Latvian officials have not been allowed to investigate the shooting and are treating the

incident with scepticism. In February, Lieutenant Mlynik and a Soviet hardline journalist, Aleksandr Nevzorov, reported being the objects of an assassination attempt to which there were no witnesses. Mr Nevzorov was involved in a similar incident last year when he claimed he was shot. Most Latvians believe that the latest incident is another case of a "provocation" aimed at giving the impression of conflict and an excuse for military intervention.

Increased tension in the Baltic region would not seem to be in the interests of President Gorbachev. However, Mr Gorbachev's agreement with Mr Yeltsin and eight republican leaders concerning the union treaty, which allows other republics the right to secede, has angered communists here. There is talk among Soviet loyalists of "abandonment" and "betrayal". Analysts believe that this will increase the risk that hardliners will devise their own strategy to retain Soviet rule.



If the cap fits: Anatoli Ivanov, a Lenin lookalike, posing for some Russian soldiers on the deck of the River Neva in Leningrad yesterday in front of his favourite backdrop, the refurbished cruiser Aurora. In 1917 the crew of the Aurora mutinied and played a significant part in the actions that toppled Tsar Nicholas. The Aurora is now a tourist

attraction, and is one of only three pre-first world war cruisers which are still afloat, the others being the USS Olympia, which is maintained as a historic monument in Philadelphia, and the Greek ship Averoff, located at Pafos island. Mr Ivanov, aged 55, often dresses up like the founder of the Soviet state to surprise tourists and passers-by.

Fear and hate grip rebel Serb village

FROM TIM JUDAH AND
DESSA TREVISAN
IN BELGRADE

BOROVO Selo, the rebel Serbian village where 16 people died in bloody clashes between Croatian police and Serb villagers last week, was quiet yesterday. But there are still many gruesome signs of the battle, including a bullet-riddled police Range Rover. Blood is still spattered on the walls of the town hall and a Croatian riot police helmet is brought out for viewing by villagers. "As you see from the holes," a villager said, "the bullet entered here, above the ear and that's why his eye was shot out. It's all Croatian propaganda to say that we actually gouge it out."

On the outskirts of the village, Croatian police maintain road-blocks checking all who enter and leave. Outside the town hall, pigs snout around federal army tanks and armoured personnel carriers brought in to keep the peace. The tension and fear are so high that while people are happy to talk nobody dares to give their name.

One villager said: "It's a matter of hours before war starts." He remarked that his best friend was a Croat. "A few days ago he called me and said that if a political settlement was not found all Serbs would be killed. I cannot consider him a friend anymore. Friendship between Croats and Serbs is now impossible. As people we must separate."

In the Croat villages of Slavonia only a few miles away from Borovo Selo these sentiments are echoed, but in reverse. In Tovarnik a man said: "It is impossible to unify the West and the Balkans and we are no longer willing to live in Serbo-slavia."



Moscow blames deaths on Armenia

Moscow - Pressure mounted on the tiny republic of Armenia yesterday after the Soviet defence and interior ministries took Azerbaijan's side in the latest round of frontier clashes.

As Armenians mourned at least 36 people killed in ethnic violence over the Azerbaijan border in the past week, the ministries issued a joint statement blaming the separatist government in Yerevan.

"The entire responsibility for the crimes committed, for any possible tragic development of events, will lie with the Armenian leadership," they said. (Reuters)

Italian threat

Rome - The Christian Democrat government in Italy, formed a month ago by Giulio Andreotti, is on the brink of collapse after Guido Carli, the treasury minister, threatened to resign if his suggested heavy spending cuts are rejected. President Cossiga is claiming the establishment is plotting to undermine his role.

Border opened

Belgrade - The border between Yugoslavia and Albania was opened so that Macedonians could cross into Albania without passports, the Tanjug Yugoslav news agency reported. More than 3,000 people crossed near the town of Cetinje, about 250 miles south of Belgrade. (AP)

Unchecked fire

Moscow - A forest blaze in the Soviet Far East has destroyed 75,000 acres of woodland because local firefighters lack equipment to put it out, Tass said. The official Soviet news agency said the firefighters only had hoses and one dilapidated cross-country vehicle, which was long overdue for replacement. (Reuters)

Jet blows tyres

Newark - A Canadian Air Nova airliner with 87 people on board blew out four tyres while landing to refuel at Newark international airport, New Jersey, on Saturday. Nobody was injured and the passengers left the plane through the stairways. The plane was on a flight from Miami to Nova Scotia. (AP)

Budapest trusts in tested spies

By GABRIEL RONAY

AS THE spies of East and West shift their centre of operations from Vienna to Budapest, the Hungarian secret services are reaping the "democracy dividend".

Hungary has formally cut its links with the KGB, disbanded the communist state's hush-hush III/I and III/III secret service outfits and formed, along Western lines, a National Security Bureau to counter terrorism, drug running and foreign espionage.

To fill the security vacuum, all the old secret service agents have been re-hired, according to parliamentary sources. There have been no redundancies and no new agents have been recruited. Democracy has been kind to the old professionals: they tore up their communist party cards and were enlisted by the bureau as democratic secret agents. The National Association of Former Political Prisoners has gamely offered to help out, and 11 former

victims of communist oppression have been selected to join the bureau as civilian "advisers" who, in theory, would make sure that the former communist spooks serve the interests of the democratic state.

British undercover police and customs officers now being sent to Hungary will be collaborating with their newly depoliticised Budapest colleagues in a drive to block the flow of Middle Eastern drugs to the West along the new "northern" route via Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Germany. The old "southern" smuggling chain via Yugoslavia, Austria, and Italy, has become too exposed for the liking of the godfathers.

With the withdrawal of the Soviet army, counter-espionage agents have also noted a sudden increase in the number of foreign intelligence agents in Budapest. Vienna appears to have fallen from favour as a spying centre.

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Prince goes on rescue mission

From Alan Hamilton in Prague

THE Prince of Wales arrives in Czechoslovakia today to welcome the country's return to the European family and lead his support to rescuing a nation with 36,000 historic monuments from its communist legacy of environmental disaster. President Havel invited the prince and princess to make an official visit after they made the first royal foray into the newly liberated Eastern Europe a year ago, touring Hungary when it was switching from communism to democracy.

During his five-day visit, the prince will address a meeting of the New York-based World Monuments Fund, which is urgently considering how to restore some of Czechoslovakia's immense store of historic architecture, the richest in Eastern Europe, of which more than three-quarters is estimated to be in urgent need of rescue.

To underline the havoc wrought by 45 years of mindless industrialisation, his hosts will take the prince to northwest Bohemia to see the 17th-century Jezek castle, saved just in time from collapse. It lies on the edge of a swathe of countryside 40 miles long and six miles wide stripped to a moonscape by years of open cast mining for brown coal.

The prince will also address a meeting of his Business Leaders' Forum, which has had three teams of Western businessmen in the country since February to help it set up capitalist enterprises and to advise on how business can help rescue the environment.

The prince is known to be an admirer of the Czechoslovak playwright-president and is expected to make a key speech at Charles university tomorrow on the need for the cultural reunification of Europe.

East looks for lesson in royal dissent

THE down-at-heel workers' district of Zizkov, where Prague housewives collect their milk from the shop in enamel jugs, has been buzzing with excitement about the impending visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The other day, after a rambling over-the-counter conversation about the merits of Charles and the glamour of Diana, a prune-faced woman stunned the shop into silence, saying: "You know, of course, that she has a computer to match her clothes."

This encyclopaedic knowledge of the princess's wardrobe is derived from the newly liberated press of Eastern and Central Europe, which has, in its turn, made the discovery that royal gossip, preferably inaccurate, is the stuff of which newspaper sales are made.

In trams, rattling their way over the cobblestones to the early morning shift in the textile factory, the talk is of Princess Anne's marriage.



Havel has yet to weigh in on social issues

Even the left-wing newspapers muck in with chirpy articles about the driving habits and the speeding habits of the royal family.

The gossip, familiar enough in Germany or Italy, feeds a real need in post-communist Europe. The monarchs of the region have been in exile since the war. Their families, and other aristocratic dynasties, were treated shabbily. Polish aristocrats, in particular, were

Roger Boyes finds that Eastern Europe is lapping up every item of news and gossip about the House of Windsor

jailed or sent to Siberia, and those that remained were lucky to end up with two-room apartments. Communist textbooks produced at best a caricature of the displaced class as greedy, dissolute exploiters of the peasantry.

Now the time has come for some historical realignment and the British royal family is regarded as the best measuring rod. For one thing, the family has relatives everywhere. King Simeon of Bulgaria is from the house of Saxe-Coburg, Michael of Romania is a Hohenzollern (and a second cousin of the Duke of Edinburgh).

Even the communist leaders sensed that there was a popular need for a taste of kingship. The Hungarian party chief, Janos Kadar, one of the more modest of the Soviet bloc chieftains, was a hunter, while the Romanian tyrant, Nicolae Ceausescu, impressed by his state visit to Britain, became a palace-builder.

President Tito of Yugoslavia played the monarchical card: palaces, hunting lodges, snappy white suits, thousands of retainers and a Britannia-style yacht. The Serbian communist leader, Slobodan Milosevic, who affects the same white suits, has grasped there is an important though ill-defined relationship between power, stability and soap opera.

Having discovered that a star of the *Dynasty* television series, Catherine Oxenberg, was a member of the royal Karadjordjevic family, he invited her back to Yugoslavia for some useful photo-opportunities.

But after decades of chronic economic mis-

management, the people lost faith in the crass kings of communism and, in the democratic revolutions of 1989, they had their Bastille.

The idea that Prince Charles might be more than a figurehead is only just creeping into Eastern Europe. The popular press continues to reprint the fashion novelties of the Princess of Wales, but the more serious newspapers are looking at the speeches of the prince. His themes of education, environment, planning are at the heart of their dilemma: how best to preserve cultural values at a time of rapid change.

In the rush to the market, the post-communist states are cutting back or neglecting their social welfare systems; kindergartens are closing down, hospitals are becoming modern ruins. Moreover, the determination to replace a hated and inefficient central planning system with a free market is having a chaotic effect in cities. The need to strike a balance between plan and market is seen as a dangerous socialist heresy, and so building speculators are running rampant.

Neither President Havel of Czechoslovakia nor President Walesa of Poland have addressed these issues and it seems they may have something to learn from a reformer-prince. Although both leaders have touched on presidential themes — the need for tolerance of minorities, national unity — they are nervous at seeming to be covert left-wingers and so have not weighed in on social policy.

The sense of speaking for a nation without clearly stating party preference is a technique still to be mastered by the new governors of Central Europe. Mr Havel and Mr Walesa are bound by the political game. For Mr Walesa to denounce the despoliation of Cracow would be difficult as the place can only be cleaned up and conserved if a steel-works is shut down and some 60,000 workers are sacked.



Father's care: Princess Caroline, whose husband Stefano Casiraghi died in a speedboat crash last October, with Prince Ranier at Monaco's international bouquet contest

KGB and Yeltsin agree to set up Russian secret police

From Reuter in Moscow

BORIS Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian Federation, yesterday agreed with the Soviet KGB chief to create a separate Russian security service. It appears to be part of Mr Yeltsin's attempt to set up state structures for his giant republic.

Tass said Mr Yeltsin and Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB, agreed that a Russian KGB would be set up. The Russian parliament's leadership had appointed a KGB officer, Major-General Viktor Ivanenko, as acting chief of the new service.

General Ivanenko said the new body's main tasks would be restoring order, combating

organised crime and halting what he said was "anti-constitutional activity" in the Russian Federation.

Mr Yeltsin, leading the republic's drive towards greater economic and political autonomy, has attacked the KGB, hinting it was out to discredit him — or even kill him. He recently replaced his KGB bodyguard with a small team of his own and accused the security service of bugging his telephones and office.

Sergei Stepashin, chairman of the Russian parliament's committee on security, earlier told Tass that a joint protocol on creating the new body would be signed today. The

Russian authorities envisioned a service of between 350 and 400 officers, with many duties shared with the Soviet KGB.

The protocol calls for the creation of a joint commission to spell out the duties and responsibilities of each side. A final agreement on the security services is to be signed after the approval of a new union treaty redefining ties between the Kremlin and the republics.

● **Butler's death:** An Italian butler to the American ambassador in Moscow has been strangled along with a Russian man in a Moscow apartment in an apparent robbery. (AP)

Bardot backs Spanish mayor

Tossa de Mar — Brigitte Bardot, the film star and animal rights campaigner, has urged voters in Tossa de Mar on Spain's Costa Brava to re-elect their mayor to reward his successful campaign to ban bullfights in the town.

Local officials said yesterday that the actress had sent an open letter to the town hall congratulating Telm Zaragoza for banning the national fiesta from Tossa in 1989 and praising his "courage and determination". (Reuter)

Honecker 'well'

Bonn — Erich Honecker, aged 79, the former East German communist leader, who was ousted in October 1989 and was flown secretly to Moscow last March on the orders of the Kremlin, has had surgery for cancer in a Soviet hospital and feels well, the German *Bild* newspaper reported. (Reuter)

33 die in Punjab

Delhi — Eighteen Sikh separatist militants, a part-time policeman and 14 civilians were killed in the Indian state of Punjab at the weekend in violence linked to the decade-long campaign for a Sikh homeland. The Press Trust of India said that 14 of the dead had been killed by security forces. (Reuter)

Fatal landslide

Moscow — Sixty-four people were killed by a landslide in the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, the independent news agency Interfax said. The landslide occurred near Angren after rain buried eight houses. The Uzbek government declared a day of mourning. (Reuter)

Horns of plenty

Brussels — The Zwartberg-Genk zoo in eastern Belgium has sold 12 buffalo to South Africa after an appeal from authorities there for healthy animals to replenish herds hit by disease. Six were sent on the three-week sea journey last week, and six more are to be sent later. (Reuter)

MAKE
THE MOVE.

Pressures catch up with the White House jogger



Making the running: Mr Bush jogging recently in the grounds of the Washington Naval Observatory

WHEN President Nixon left office he had life-threatening pleuritis. President Carter collapsed while jogging, and aged dramatically during his four years in the White House. President Reagan was shot only months after taking office and was closer to death than is generally realised.

One way or another, being leader of the free world has taken its toll on the health of occupants of the Oval Office. Before this weekend, President Bush had seemed almost immune from the immense stresses of his job and seemed to delight in showing off his stamina. He offset a punishing self-imposed work schedule with strenuous physical exercise and sometimes managed to combine both. During the Gulf confrontation he was on several occasions shown taking calls from world leaders in his golf cart or aboard his speedboat, Fidelity. "It's really very simple," said an old friend of the 66-year-old president. "Bush's entire approach to life can be summarised in two words: keep moving."

In his first two years in office Mr Bush logged 267,072 flying miles, twice as many as Mr Carter, visiting 113 cities in 44 states, not to mention undertaking umpteen foreign trips. He spent a third of 1990 on the road. His itinerary is scarcely less demanding when he is in Washington. His days begin at dawn and often continue until late at night. He looked haggard at times during the Gulf conflict, but recuperated with a fishing and golf holiday in Florida early last month. Earlier in his career he had an ulcer, but friends say that he subsequently disciplined himself to live with pressure.

Passive entertainment is not Mr Bush's idea of relaxation. He was said to be bored stiff when confined to Camp David at Christmas. With little company and the prospect of impending war, he twice flew down to Washington. His idea of resting, as regularly demonstrated at his

With half of America certain that Dan Quayle could not take over as leader of the free world, President Bush, a keep-fit fanatic, was at pains to laugh off being taken to hospital at the weekend, Martin Fletcher reports from Washington

Kennebunkport holiday home, is a jog, a 90-minute round of "aerobic golf", a game of tennis, a blast up the coast in Fidelity and maybe a four or five-mile seashore "power walk", all in a day.

Mr Bush regularly exhorts the White House press corps to join him on his jogs, but few can keep up. Only last Wednesday he launched the second Great American Workout by performing a series of exercises on the White House lawn. "No matter how old you are or what kind of shape you're in, exercise helps every one of us

live longer, healthier, more enjoyable lives," he told the nation.

Mr Bush's health is a matter of intense national interest, of course, not least because the vice-president is Dan Quayle. A Washington Post-ABC News poll taken after the Gulf war, during which Mr Quayle had enjoyed high visibility, showed 49 per cent of respondents still thought him unqualified to take over were anything to happen to Mr Bush, only 3 per cent fewer than in August 1989.

Many wanted Mr Bush to

replace Mr Quayle on the 1992 presidential ticket. Among those mooted were Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, James Baker, the Secretary of State, or one of the heroes of the war, Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, or Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of Operation Desert Storm.

When Mr Bush selected Mr Quayle as his running mate in 1987, he said the most important characteristic for choosing a vice president was "who would be best to take over in case of something

happening to the president". Most Americans have never agreed with Mr Quayle's selection on those grounds.

When he himself was vice-president in 1988, Mr Bush became acting president for eight hours while President Reagan was under anaesthesia during surgery for colon cancer, but Martin Fletcher, the White House press secretary, said there was no question of Mr Quayle taking temporary control when Mr Bush was rushed to hospital on Saturday evening.

John Sununu, the president's chief of staff, quickly informed both Mr Quayle and Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, of the president's condition but there were certainly no scenes like those in the wake of Mr Reagan's attempted assassination in 1981 when the

then Secretary of State Alexander Haig erroneously and prematurely announced: "I'm in charge."

Mr Bush remained fully conscious throughout and was evidently amused by what he termed the "hoopla". Typically, he insisted on doing paperwork during the helicopter flight to the hospital on Saturday evening. In the course of Mr Fitzwater's televised briefing later that night he even phoned in to correct a slight on his physical prowess. Mr Fitzwater had said that the president had been running for several minutes when the heart problem began. Mr Bush wanted the world to know he had been running for 35 to 40 minutes.

Hospital stay, page 1
Bush's stamina, page 14

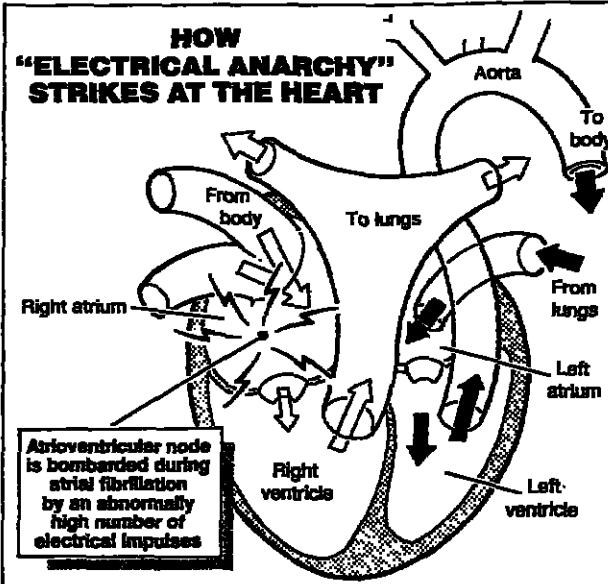
Doctors search for key to heart problem

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Bush's sudden illness could have been provoked by jogging if he had an underlying heart condition, a leading British cardiologist said yesterday.

Mr Bush suffered atrial fibrillation, a rapid and irregular heart beat described as "electrical anarchy" in the atria, the two upper pumping chambers of the heart. The condition occurs without warning when the actions of the atria become disordered.

The key question for the president's doctors is what provoked this. Although the condition is not life-threatening, it can be an early warning of more serious heart disease. Mr Bush was jogging at his Camp David retreat when he complained of breathlessness and fatigue. An electrocardiogram showed no abnormalities other than the irregular heart rhythm, and ultrasound scans disclosed no structural damage. Blood tests and x-rays gave no evidence of a heart attack.



When the heart is functioning normally, the right atrium receives deoxygenated blood from the body and transfers it in an electrically controlled way to the right ventricle. From there, it is pumped to the lungs to be given a fresh

supply of oxygen. The left atrium receives the oxygenated blood from the lungs and transfers it in a similar fashion to the left ventricle, from which it is then pumped around the body. In atrial fibrillation, the routine becomes suddenly

disrupted and the atria contract much more rapidly. The atrioventricular node, which transmits electrical impulses from the atria to the ventricles, is bombarded with an excess of impulses. Some of these reach the ventricles, raising the heart beat to perhaps twice its normal rate.

After his condition was diagnosed in hospital, Mr Bush was given digoxin, a drug that reduces the number of impulses and gives the ventricles time to fill up with blood and empty normally after each contraction.

Douglas Chamberlain, the president of the British Cardiac Society, said yesterday: "Atrial fibrillation is electrical anarchy in the atria, causing them to beat in an unco-ordinated and ineffective way. Often it is an isolated abnormality that can be treated simply and very effectively by drugs, and the individual can go on to lead an entirely normal life."

Dr Chamberlain added: "The cause is important. It could be a manifestation of some other underlying heart

disease. Physical exercise such as jogging could provoke the onset of symptoms, but only in the presence of an underlying vulnerability."

David Pearle, chief of cardiology at Georgetown university medical centre, Washington, said that the disorder could be triggered by a heart attack or a blood clot in the lungs that would take longer to diagnose. Dr Pearle and Benjamin Lee, another cardiologist, said the abnormality should have no impact on Mr Bush's ability to conduct the presidency.

According to the American Heart Association, atrial fibrillation affects between 1.5 million and two million Americans a year, of whom some 225,000 suffer disabling strokes as a result. This happens if blood collects in the atria, causing clots that then break away and lodge in brain arteries.

Researchers reported last February that aspirin, combined with a common blood-thinning drug, can reduce the risk of strokes after atrial fibrillation by 67 per cent.

Sudan woos West with amnesty for political detainees

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

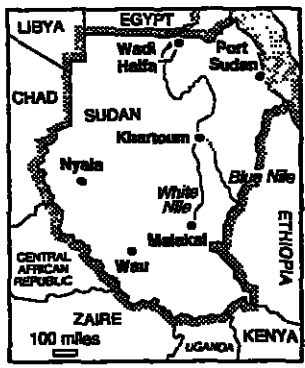
SUDAN'S announcement last week of an amnesty for political detainees, including Sadiq al-Mahdi, the former prime minister, is further proof that the country's military government is attempting to repair its tattered relations with the West.

Ali al-Haj, a senior economics minister now visiting Britain, said that Britain had agreed to send back some key aid personnel withdrawn earlier this year, and that Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, had accepted an invitation to visit Sudan. However, her office said she had no plans to go, and would do so only if relief was getting through to all parts of the country. Sudan has also invited the Commons foreign affairs committee to send a delegation of MPs on an official visit as a move towards restoring "the deeply rooted historical relations and the friendly and mutual co-operation that happily existed" between the two countries.

The invitation is in a letter, from Ali Ahmed Saboul, the foreign minister, to David Howell, the chairman of the committee, sent through by Louis FitzGibbon, honorary secretary of the British Horn of Africa Council, who spent last week in Khartoum.

He met Lieutenant-General Omar al-Bashir and several ministers. "A gulf of misunderstanding exists," he said yesterday. "There is a big job to do in mending relations."

The invitation also refers to



"significant changes" since the regime took power in 1989.

He said the main priority was now transport. Some 200,000 tonnes of wheat were stockpiled in Port Sudan; another 400,000 had been bought on the market, and the country had grown 800,000 tonnes. This needed to be moved to the area ravaged by drought before the rains spoiled the stockpiles.

Rehabilitation of the railway was the most urgent task. Dr al-Haj has asked Britain to repair the 16 dilapidated diesel locomotives so that trainloads of more than 1,000 tonnes of wheat could be moved. Lorry transport could only move five tonnes at a time.

Dr al-Haj sharply denounced the West's refusal to release disaster aid until the government declared a famine. The issue has become a matter of face for the revolutionary government. The Foreign Office, in discussions with him on Tuesday, called for greater co-operation from Khartoum in the relief effort, and said there had been no change in overall aid policy.

Dr al-Haj insisted the famine had been over-dramatised by the media. Sudan was better off than in 1984 because it had warning of the coming danger. He also claimed the economic situation was far better than when the present military government took power. The "food gap" was being bridged by imports, relief and intensive growing programmes. But Sudan urgently needed farm equip-

ment, seed grain and capital for agriculture.

The country was "deeply appreciative" of the aid sent so far, Dr al-Haj said. Some aid agencies, such as Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund, were doing a good job. But he denounced others, especially American church charities, which he accused of smuggling arms to the rebels in the south.

The Sudanese government has alienated almost all its former donors. Britain and America have closed their aid programmes, citing violations of human rights and the lack of safety for their personnel.

Khartoum's support for President Saddam Hussein before the Gulf war angered the Gulf states, and there is virtually no Arab government aid now going to Sudan. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have also cut off aid, because of the multi-million pounds in arrears which the country owes but says it cannot pay.

The government is now quietly lobbying for a return of aid programmes. The finance minister will go to Washington next month to negotiate with the World Bank. Yesterday the state-run radio announced that Libya had agreed to provide Sudan with all its fuel requirements for the next six months. Almost all the country's \$500 million export earnings now go on fuel imports, and the country is facing an acute shortage.

The recent amnesty was a clear attempt to answer accusations of human rights violations. Dr al-Haj also called the agreement not to enforce Islamic law in the south "a very big step" in trying to accommodate the insurgents. But he denounced Ethiopia, which he said was still fanning rebellion among the estimated one million Sudanese who have fled across the border.

Jalal Ali Lutfi, Sudan's chief justice, has issued a circular clarifying aspects of Sharia, the Islamic law. Among other things, this says that murderers can now pay compensation to relatives of their victims in cash rather than camels, which are in short supply because of the drought. He set the amount at 200,000 Sudanese pounds (£20,000). The circular was issued after Islamic jurists had assessed the value of a camel.



Desperate for a helping hand: survivors of the cyclone, which devastated southern Bangladesh last week, begging help from Begum Khalida Zia, the prime minister, when she visited Noakhali. Relief disarray, page 1

Drive to repair China-US links

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

ROBERT Kimmitt, the American Under-Secretary of State for political affairs, arrived in Peking yesterday on a delicate mission to salvage Sino-American relations.

Tension surrounds President Bush's decision on whether to renew China's most favoured nation trading status while Peking continues to violate human rights. China stands to lose billions of dollars in trade and has said that relations will suffer if the status is withdrawn. The issues are so sensitive that Mr

Kimmitt asked that his time of arrival be kept secret so that he could avoid the press.

An American embassy spokesman said Mr Kimmitt would meet officials today, but declined to say whom he would be seeing. It is not known whether he will meet leaders or lower-ranking officials.

Mr Kimmitt is visiting at a time when relations are at their lowest since immediately after the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in June 1989. President Bush has

until June 3 to decide whether to renew the status.

Mr Kimmitt's mission is to convince the Chinese to make concessions on a range of issues in order to prevent a congressional revolt against the renewal of the status. Human rights is at the top of that list, but recent allegations of sales of nuclear technology to Algeria, missile sales to Syria and Pakistan, and infringements of American copyright and patent laws are on the agenda, as well as trade issues. American businessmen

are angered by a trade deficit, which has grown in just one year from \$2.4 billion (£1.4 billion) to \$10.4 billion and looks as if it could reach \$15 billion in the next year. Some of those who were supporters of the trading status last year have switched sides.

Jimmy Carter, the former American president, called for an amnesty for all political prisoners before the status was renewed. While Peking would not countenance a general amnesty, several political prisoners have been released recently, including two leaders of China's first unofficial trade union. However, sources in Peking point out that arrests continue, and Mr Kimmitt may confront his hosts with news of renewed repression.

Last month, Liu Xiaobai, a student at Peking's university was arrested for publishing an underground magazine. His future is grim. Two students arrested a year ago for a similar offence, Chen Yanbin and Zhang Yafei, were sentenced to 15 and 11 years respectively. Mr Chen's sentence, which has not been released officially, is the heaviest for a non-violent crime, since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Kim pins hope on Peking

Peking - Kim Il Sung, the veteran president of North Korea who is becoming increasingly isolated on the international scene, told the visiting Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, yesterday that their two countries were "close as lips and teeth" (Catherine Sampson writes).

China is one of the few countries which can claim such an intimate relationship with the hardline communist dictatorship, and Mr Li responded by saying: "No mat-

ter how the international situation changes, we will make further contributions to such relations". President Kim insisted that socialism would last forever.

Both countries are, however, troubled by the international situation. Each has been shaken by the collapse of the monopoly of communist power in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe but somewhat consoled by the economic problems that these countries are now facing.

Mr Li is understood to have discussed North Korea's latest problems with President Kim, and the announcement by Seoul that it intends to join the United Nations. China and South Korea have established trade offices in each other's countries and Mr Li is able to act as intermediary.

Diplomats here believe Mr Li will tell Pyongyang to accept Seoul's UN membership on the understanding that it will last only until the two Koreas are reunified.

De Klerk in pulpit appeal for peace

Johannesburg - President de Klerk of South Africa took his appeals for peace in strife-torn black townships to a church near Soweto yesterday, aware that political violence has begun to tarnish his reformist image. (Gavin Bell writes).

He told the mainly black congregation: "Go forth and spread the message that the clenched fists have to open to become praying hands and working hands. The fist clenched in anger, arrogance and cruelty cannot bring a future of hope and peace."

An official of the Inkatha Freedom Party, locked in a power struggle with the African National Congress, threatened to deploy thousands of armed men in Transvaal townships unless the ANC halted fighting within a week.

Treason trial

Nairobi - Uganda is to put 18 people, including a cabinet minister, on trial today charged with treason. Official Uganda radio said preliminary investigations indicated that the suspects, who include Daniel Ruzarwa, a minister of state for foreign affairs, allegedly helped rebels fighting in the north of the country.

Power-cut threat

Nairobi - Ethiopian rebels are threatening to cut electricity supplies to Addis Ababa, the capital. The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front radio said a hydroelectric station in the Welaga region, captured last month, would be closed if the government did not stop air raids on the area. (Reuters)

Kaifu leaves

Manila - Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, leaves Manila today at the end of his tour of South-East Asia. During his visit to the Philippines he emphasised the importance of a continuing American military presence in the region, and said Tokyo's desire to play a larger political role in Asia.

Husband cleared

Karachi - Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan opposition leader, was acquitted of bank fraud by a court. But his lawyer, Raja Qureshi, said that Mr Zardari, who was arrested in October, had not been released from jail because he still faces a dozen other charges. (Reuters)

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Americans issue 'early warning' for Saddam's forces to pull out

US marines prepare to bring Dahuk within safe haven

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN DAHUK

AMERICAN marines moved to within about 15 miles of Dahuk at the weekend, increasing speculation that the town will be shortly taken into the allied safe haven.

On Saturday afternoon men of Fox Company, Second Battalion 8th Marine Division who were the first to move into Iraq when the safe haven plan was launched, took up positions on the road north of here from Zakho. The company moved down the road in nine amphibious armoured vehicles and were carrying anti-tank missiles. Above them, American F16 fighters, Cobra gunships and A10 tank-buster aircraft circled or made low passes, looking for signs of Iraqi opposition.

"It's like an early warning," explained Sergeant William Clark, standing at the side of the road in sunglasses and carrying an M16 rifle. "We are flying over saying this is our advanced warning. We're saying you start your withdrawal. I'm sure once we take that town, they (the refugees) are going to come down in their thousands."

Although official American military sources are still saying no decision has been taken on Dahuk's future, most observers believe that it is likely the city will be incorporated into the area. That will create a triangular shape bordered by Dahuk in the south, Zakho in the north and Amadiyah to the east, taking in hundreds of square miles of open country and mountains. In the city, Iraqi soldiers and police were still in evidence with tanks and armoured personnel carriers parked at some junctions. Between the Americans and the outskirts to the north, there are several military encampments, some newly established and ringed by machinegun positions. But

there appeared to be few signs of a willingness to fight despite the obvious nervousness amongst the men of Fox Company who did not see action in the Gulf and anxiously enquired about the strength of Iraqi forces to the south of them.

After visiting refugee camps in the mountains where hundreds of thousands of people from Dahuk are camping in tents or in the open, there should have been nothing unexpected about a deserted city. But it is something outside everyday experience to wander through street after street of empty houses and to peer into homes left unattended, many of them looted of valuables by the few prowling soldiers.

Despite the headlong rush, most families tried to secure their possessions before they left, padlocking doors and wiring windows. But the looting has been systematic. Televisions, videos, radios, telephones, kitchen equipment

dered through the darkened rooms. He made tea on a stove he had brought down with him from a refugee camp in the mountains three days ago. He had come to check that the house was still in one piece and by now, he should be on his way back to the camps, walking or ceding lifts.

Bazhad talked repeatedly of his hopes that the Americans will come to Dahuk and bitterly about those who had taken his possessions. On the sideboard he had filled the gap with bowls of artificial flowers, but in his photo album you could see him standing proudly in front of the television and video. The album was a history of happier times with pictures of Bazhad, his elder brother and his three sisters picnicking on the lawns of Mosul university, attending family weddings or feasting at parties given by his uncle who lives opposite and has also fled.

Some families are starting to trickle back into Dahuk. A secondary school teacher, still too nervous of the police to give his real name, explained how he and his wife and three young children had decided to risk it after their ten-month-old baby daughter became seriously ill up in the mountains where they were unable to get a tent.

Little Juan clutching a feeding bottle looked pale and terribly thin in her crib. The family have very little money and food is extremely expensive to buy. They are living on a diet of vegetables. The children's clothes were stolen while they were away.

"The town is quiet," the father explained. "There is nobody. We are afraid because we don't know what is going to happen. We want somebody to make us feel not afraid. We hope the Americans and the British will come." As he



Bread of life: a Kurdish boy makes light of his burden of loaves in northern Iraq

spoke we could hear the engines of three US army gunships hovering around the outskirts of Dahuk. We rushed up onto the roof to watch them, squinting in the sun. It seemed that Dahuk's agony is about to come to an end.

At two camps located about two miles apart just outside the city perimeter, soldiers were lined up on the parade

grounds without their weapons, leaving anti-aircraft positions unattended as American Cobra gunships hovered within a hundred feet. It looked like a clear signal to the pilots that they were not in any danger.

At Iraqi army and police checkpoints correspondents carrying Turkish government press cards but no visas were

waved through without delay by police, a remarkable state of affairs in what is still an Iraqi government held city. "If it keeps going the way it's going, things are going to work out okay," observed Sergeant Clark as his men treaded gingerly on the grassy slopes behind him looking for mines. "We come in, they go out," he added.

Syria seeks new arms

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS REGIONAL security after the Gulf war began to take shape yesterday with the Gulf Co-operation Council meeting in Kuwait to set the seal on its plans, there was evidence that Syria is again actively seeking new weapons for its already formidable arsenal.

The GCC believes the Arab League to be outdated and that its role should be developed with a regional strategy based on an alliance with Syria and Egypt.

"The bitter experiences we went through together... and the future challenges require a change in the thinking method that prevailed before the (Iraqi) invasion (of Kuwait)," Bahrain's Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak al-Khalifa told his fellow foreign ministers at the opening session of the meeting.

"Together, we should build a new strategy that is in line with international developments and the new world order," the Sheikh added.

Egypt, Syria and the GCC states, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, agreed in Damascus in March to form a regional peacekeeping force. Egypt and Syria would provide the troops in return for economic aid.

The new alliance emphasises Syria's switch from a close political and military relationship with Moscow to a stance based more upon an alliance with the leading pro-Western Arab states which springs in part from the Gulf-war alliance of Arab and Western powers.

Parallel with that change, the Soviet Union is seeking closer links with Israel. Yet, according to Israel, Syria has ordered up to 300 Soviet T72 tanks as well as armoured personnel carriers, built under licence, from Czechoslovakia.

A vessel laden with Scud C missiles from North Korea recently arrived at the port of Latakia with 24 missiles and 20 launchers.

Leading article, page 15

UN plans Iraq plant to destroy weapons

New York — United Nations officials are considering building a destruction facility inside Iraq, possibly in the UN-policed demilitarised zone, to rid the country of its chemical weapons (James Bone writes).

The plant could cost millions of dollars and take several years to build, but it would then be available to destroy other chemical weapons in the region if an arms control agreement is reached.

Boycott switch

Jerusalem — The Arab League has removed several international corporations from its list of companies boycotted for their links with Israel. But in a contradictory move, it added scores of new names to the embargo list. Israel had hoped that the decades old boycott against it would be eased.

Militia pull out

Beirut — A radical Palestinian faction loyal to Damascus was said to be pulling its weaponry out of Beirut and northern Lebanon, apparently to establish new bases facing Israeli positions in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. The move showed compliance with Lebanese government plans to extend army control.

Druze protest

Jerusalem — Israeli police using tear gas and batons drove back Druze protesters trying to storm the office of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. About 1,000 Druze had come from villages in northern Israel to demand the same government financing as is given to Jewish municipalities. (Reuters)

Singer mourned

Cairo — Politicians, diplomats and celebrities were among thousands of chanting Egyptians who mourned Mohammad Abdel-Wahab, a singer-composer hailed as the father of modern Arab music, at his funeral in Nasr City district yesterday. He died aged 90. (Reuters)

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TALKING TO
BARCLAYS

Fighting for the trenches

A former bomber pilot battled for 35 years to get mains drainage for his village — and now victory is his. William Greaves reports

Visitors to the West Country who have just "done" the Roman-cum-Georgian city of Bath and are hurrying towards the rather less historic waters of Weston-super-Mare seldom pause to take in the rustic charms of West Harptree, a largely unmissable village that lies between the two.

Until recently, that is. Nowadays their progress is interrupted by that curse of the motoring classes, a set of temporary traffic lights. As they wait impatiently at the road works for the red to turn to green, they might well catch sight of 70-year-old Squadron Leader Harold Taviner gazing rapturously upon the scene of hard-hatted mayhem and listening to the mechanical diggers as though theirs was the music of the gods.

For this unremarkable hole in the road could almost be described as Mr Taviner's life's work. An indomitable fighting man with 30 war-time bombing raids over Germany to his credit, he was a mere stripling of 35 when he first went into battle to demand a mains drainage system for the village. And, after three and a half decades, here it finally is — a £600,000 sewerage system actually being installed.

Compared with the nationwide demonstration of people power which, in little more than a year, has forced a political party with a huge majority in the House of Commons to abandon one of its principal planks of government, the triumph of Mr Taviner and West Harptree might seem like small beer.

In truth, however, it is merely the opposite end of the same spectrum. Whether it comes from millions of disparate poll-tax protesters or the 500 men and women who make up an Avon village, the message is the same: a trumpet blown for long enough and with sufficient determination will eventually bring down the walls of bureaucratic or governmental resistance.

"Oh yes, there have been plenty of people who have said I would never live long enough to see this happening," says the gentle-mannered former bomber command hero. "There have been times, too, when I've got desperately near to believing it myself."

There was snow on the ground earlier this year when Mr Taviner

plunged a ceremonial spade into the ground. That spade now hangs in the hall of the house he shares with his wife, Edith. An inscription on the blade bears his name. It is a humble trophy, but for a man who has been digging away at a single project for exactly half his life none other would have been appropriate.

Exactly 35 years ago another villager, Sheila Weatherill, arrived in West Harptree. Now a 58-year-old school meals supervisor, she remembers the day well. "My parents came to take over The Crown pub and the brewery explained that the temporary cesspit would only be there until the following January, when the pub was going on to mains drainage. That proved to be a touch optimistic, but it's all going to happen now — about 36 Januarys later."

This hole could be described as his life's work

"And it's really all down to Harold. The village has changed enormously over the years, with people leaving and others coming, and some of us have given him what backing we could. But he's just kept beavering away, speaking out whenever he had the chance, always assuming but always making sure that his facts were right."

By 1956, when he first promoted the campaign for a main drainage system, Mr Taviner had become a parish councillor and the youngest member of the larger Clutton district council. But his was one voice among many, and no secret was made of the fact that his village's claim for that sort of finance lay at the bottom of the list of priorities.

"To begin with, the people in the village were nervous about the whole thing anyway, fearing that linking up to main drainage would be too expensive," Mr Taviner recalls. "But when a plan to build some old people's dwellings in the village had to be abandoned because of the lack of sewerage facilities they began to have second thoughts. So we fought on."

In those days such a scheme was the responsibility of the local authority, and it was Clutton's policy to look at one new one every year. Gradually, West Harptree moved up the list. By 1974, 18 years after Mr Taviner's opening salvo, the game was as good as won.

And that is when they moved



A pipe dream no longer: Harold Taviner at the scene of his great sewerage triumph at West Harptree

the goalposts. The county of Avon was born, and Clutton council became part of a vast new authority, Wansdyke district council, which surrounded the city of Bath, and West Harptree suddenly became an even smaller fish in the pool.

Mr Taviner recalls: "I was also pushing for two pieces of road widening at the time and they had just been approved before the boundary changes came into being. They immediately disappeared from the schedule and have never appeared on it since. But I was determined that our sewerage system would one day happen so, although it was all desperately disappointing, I kept plugging away."

Then came a national recession and in 1976 Wansdyke council declared a moratorium on all capital works. "That's when I suppose I should have given up," Mr Taviner says. He was built of sterner stuff, however, and ten years later his scheme amazingly received a tentative nod from Wansdyke's health and housing committee.

For the scheme to be financially viable, however, 70 per cent of the village had to pledge its willingness to link up to the new main. Try as he might, Mr Taviner could not reach that magic figure. Then eight new houses were built, and those eight crucial votes carried the day.

The contract was put out to tender — and every submission was too high to qualify for a 35 per

cent government grant. "The committee began to dither and we seemed to have fallen at the very last hurdle," Mr Taviner says.

In September last year the council agreed to invite new tenders. This time Trant, Exeter-based civil engineers, came up with an acceptable £600,000 proposal. Barring any last-minute calamity, Mr Taviner's 35-year ordeal was over.

The West Harptree story is an inspiration for any citizens who would demand their rightful share of the cake and a cautionary tale for any authority, big or small, that believes protest will inevitably wither into resigned acceptance. "I regard this as something of a victory for reasoned persuasion," is Mr Taviner's verdict.

Quitters stick to their gums

A cigarette substitute that helps smokers kick the habit is to become more widely available

Pam Mitchell sat at her typewriter last week, determined to ignore her nicotine craving until she had finished writing an important report. Ms Mitchell, a 47-year-old landscape gardener from north London, has been a non-smoker for six years. But she has been unable to give up the nicotine chewing gum prescribed by a smoking clinic to help her quit.

From this week, she and anyone else who wants it will be able to buy Nicorette over the counter from pharmacies all over Britain. The gum is designed to ease the nicotine craving and withdrawal symptoms that many smokers experience when they give up tobacco. Nicotine is a stimulant that acts on the central nervous system, reducing fatigue, increasing alertness and improving concentration. It also works on the pleasure centres of the brain.

According to Martin Jarvis, a psychologist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's health behaviour unit, about 7 per cent of smokers who successfully use Nicorette are still chewing it after a year. He describes the gum as the most effective anti-smoking product available. Nicotine patches and nicotine sprays are also under development. Lundbeck, the distributor of Nicorette, claims its product is effective for about 50 per cent of smokers.

Mr Jarvis, who carried out early research into Nicorette, says that in the most stringent of the trials 32 per cent of smokers who used Nicorette had given up, without a single lapse, after a year. This compared with 14 per cent of smokers using a placebo gum.

However, these successes were achieved in a smoking clinic, and whether they can be repeated by individuals using the gum on their own initiative is not clear. Success rates with GPs have been much lower because, Mr Jarvis believes, the would-be quitters were not given enough information about how to use the gum. The taste becomes unacceptably strong if people attempt to chew Nicorette like ordinary gum. It needs to be chewed slowly until the taste is released, and then rested against the inside of the cheek until it becomes tasteless, when it is chewed again. Each piece should be used for about half an hour.

"People need a few days to get used to the taste, which may seem a bit horrid at first," Mr Jarvis says. "They also need to understand what it can and cannot do for them. Just buying the gum and chewing it will not make you give

up smoking. You need to stop using cigarettes at the same time, and to be highly motivated to succeed."

"Nicorette contains only a little nicotine — about a third of what they would get in a cigarette. Smokers will still get withdrawal symptoms, although using the gum will make these easier to cope with. People need to use it for three months to benefit fully and then wean themselves off slowly. Only a very small number of people become dependent."

Ms Mitchell says: "I was smoking 30 a day when I gave up, and had been a smoker for 20 years. The fact that I still use the gum, and that I am addicted to it,



Pam Mitchell: ten sticks a day

is a sore point. I think that if I really wanted to stop, I could. But at the moment I can't handle the stress of withdrawal. I find it speeds me up when I am feeling relaxed, and that it is useful in stressful situations. If I am really relaxed and enjoying someone's company, I don't need it at all."

Nicorette costs about £12.50 for 105 pieces (although the retail price is decided by individual chemists) or about £4.60 for a 30-piece starter pack. Ms Mitchell's ten-sticks-a-day consumption works out about £10 a week cheaper than her smoking habit.

However, the gum that will be sold over the counter is really intended for people who smoke 20 a day or fewer. Heavier smokers are advised to get the stronger version, which still has to be obtained with a GP's prescription.

The side-effects of Nicorette — hiccups, indigestion and a sore jaw from unaccustomed chewing — can usually be avoided if the gum is chewed according to instructions. As Mr Jarvis points out, they pale into insignificance compared with the risks people face if they continue to smoke.

ANN KENT

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Keeping his eyes on the ball

Warren Clarke, TV's face of the moment, is paying tribute to a childhood hero

When Warren Clarke was a small boy, in the mid-Fifties, his father used to take him to see Manchester City playing at Maine Road. Once he asked if they could cross the city to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United for a change. "Now, son", his father said, "this is your heritage. This is where you're going to stay."

Clarke's uncle had a sports shop in Manchester, which he owned in partnership with Roy Clarke, one of the City players. It was here, at the age of nine, that the young Clarke met Bert Trautmann, Manchester City's goalkeeper. Trautmann was German, a former prisoner of war who had stayed on in Britain, signing for City in 1949. A year or so after Clarke met him, Trautmann achieved world fame by breaking his neck in the FA Cup final at Wembley, and playing on regardless. But to the City supporters he was already a legend. "It was like looking at a blond god with a funny accent," Clarke says.

Thirty-five years later, Clarke is a little sensitive about the television exposure he has had recently: repeats of David Lodge's *Nice Work*, in which he played the love-stricken managing director of a factory; and of *The Managers*, in which he was a football club chairman; and then *Sleepers*, in which he played Albert Robinson, one of a pair of Soviet agents planted in Britain during the Sixties and forgotten about until the Nineties.

He will be on television twice more this year: in a series called *All Good Things* on BBC1 in a few weeks; and in *Gone To The Dogs*, on ITV in the autumn. Although it may seem that he has come from nowhere, Clarke's distinctive, short-sighted, big-jawed face has been appearing on television in everything from *Coronation Street* to *Boon* for 20 years.



Maine Road marvel: Bert Trautmann (third from left, back row) lines up in 1956



Warren Clarke: producer

And not only on television. In a film review a few years ago, Barry Norman referred to "that stalwart of the British cinema, Warren Clarke". Clarke was so tickled that he named the production company he formed recently Stalwart Productions.

Clarke commissioned the script for *Sleepers* from John Flanagan and Andrew McCulloch after they had said they wanted to write something for him, and suggested the idea of a forgotten Soviet agent. Clarke suggested two agents and ended up paying for the script. "At that time I had a few quid," he says.

At that time, Brezhnev was in power. The script of *Sleepers* survived three changes of Soviet president and was finally bought by Cinema Verity, owned by the television producer Verity Lambert. In the meantime, Clarke's option had run out and he lost control of the production. But he was paid for his input, and he won apart in the series. He also acquired a taste for production.

Flanagan and McCulloch knew what they were doing when they wrote *Sleepers* for Clarke. The series was full of football in-jokes, references to "AIF's Wingless Wonders", doctored archive footage of the World Cup final of 1966 and so on. Clarke has never lost his interest in football, even though he no longer lives a bus ride away from Maine Road. Indeed, he was still playing for a show business XI until last year. It was serious stuff, he insists.

When *Trautmann: the Biography* was published by Bredon Books last year, it was hardly surprising that it landed on Clarke's desk for consideration as the basis for a film script.

The facts of Trautmann's life are remarkable. The Hitler Youth, the Russian front, his capture on the western front, his rise as a footballer in a city

with a considerable Jewish population, years of abuse and hate mail, three marriages and, of course, the broken neck.

Clarke bought the rights, with the idea of making a television series, on film, with hour-long episodes. His role would be that of producer. "I certainly don't intend to play Bert Trautmann," he says. "But I might throw a little role in for myself somewhere."

According to Clarke, Trautmann was "a huge star, one of the greatest goalkeepers in the world". Reading the book, Trautmann appears, for all that, to be a simple man (he is, incidentally, still alive).

"Albert Robinson is a very simple guy," Clarke points out, "but hopefully I made him work. Simple people have wonderful stories to tell. You don't have to be upfront to be interesting."

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THEATRE

Suddenly, every direction is up

Steven Pimlott, possibly this year's most prolific theatre director, talks to Matt Wolf

For a director who made his name away from London largely in the world of opera, Steven Pimlott is fast becoming a familiar presence on the London theatre scene. This week he tackles Molière's *The Miser*, marking his return to the National Theatre following his staging last spring of the Olivier Award-winning musical, *Sunday in the Park with George*. In June, Pimlott directs Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, starring Jason Donovan, at the Palladium; then in October comes *Julius Caesar* at Stratford, with Robert Stephens.

"It does feel like something of a hat-trick: three very difficult but exciting projects which require one to be clear and sharp and focused," Pimlott, 37, says of a line-up which embraces both the overtly commercial (*Joseph*) and the rarified (*The Miser*). But Pimlott resists the value judgments which onlookers may be quick to make, claiming that each task must be approached on its own merits. "I don't have an overall aim or vision. Just because you're doing *Julius Caesar* at Stratford doesn't mean you can't do *Joseph*. I don't regard *Joseph* as more frivolous because it isn't; it's just different — a very festive, celebratory, light piece that children are going to come to."

Of the three, *The Miser* was the only show that Pimlott chose, having been asked to suggest a play for the Olivier to fill in for Richard Jones's cancelled production of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. After choosing *The Miser*, Pimlott admits to having had some apprehension. "I had all those feelings of 'this is some fuddy-duddy 300-year-old comedy, and the French

tradition is not ours, and we don't know how to do Molière anyway, and the *commedia dell'arte* tradition is so alien. It's only been gradually, when working on it, that I've begun to discover why unconsciously I've drifted towards it."

Pimlott characterises *The Miser* as "a very strong play, a very big play", which has undercurrents of pain which were glossed over in Stephen Porter's Broadway revival last year. Certainly, there is a comic element to Harpagon's avid desire to hang on to his loot, but Molière folds into the play issues of deception, duplicity and the rending schisms within a family that dig far beneath the broad outlines of the characters. "One tends to think of stock Molière figures, archetypes in a rather stereotypical way," says Pimlott. "That is the root of the *commedia* but it is also terribly rooted in the pain of Molière's own life. Molière was playing Harpagon at a stage when he was starting to die." Pimlott's current spate of activity comes as a counterbalance to the professional disappointments he experienced last year. He was three weeks into rehearsals for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Botho Strauss's *The Park at the Old Vic*, when the productions were shut down for financial reasons.

Nor was it an easy experience on *Sunday in the Park*, the British premiere of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize-winning musical about the Pointillist artist, Georges Seurat. Not only did the project end the long-term collaboration between Pimlott and his designer, Tom Cairns, but the direction became damagingly divided between his own instincts and the Broadway-honed impulses of the musical's composer, Stephen Sondheim, and librettist-cum-original director, James Lapine.

'The classics are always worth doing because you can trust the material'



Steven Pimlott: "I don't have an overall vision... Just because you're doing *Julius Caesar* at Stratford doesn't mean you can't do *Joseph*"

"I found myself caught, wondering 'What the hell do I want this to be?'," remembers Pimlott. "In the end, I grabbed the reins from both Tom and Stephen, alienating them both. If Stephen hadn't been around, Tom and I would have carried on our own work and done it. But we had Stephen and Jim [Lapine] saying, 'But no, but no, but no...'"

One of the pitfalls, Pimlott feels in retrospect, came from working with living collaborators when his own theatrical life has been spent mostly on the classics. A 1974 graduate of Cambridge, the Manchester-born Pimlott began his career in regional theatre and in opera tackling projects where, he recalls, "you had a given, and the job was to explore this given in a different way." Iconoclasm came readily: a 1986 *Twelfth Night* for the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, opened to eight minutes of Isolda's "Liebestod".

"The classics are always worth doing, because you can trust the material," says the director, whose first directing credit was *Le Misanthrope*. "Part of the problem with doing *Sunday* was the reverence with which I treated it. Being always used to serving the masters, I sort of assumed it was Shakespeare. It isn't Shakespeare; it's Lapine."

Once the imminent trio of shows is behind him, Pimlott plans to return to opera, a genre he has not touched — with the exception of last year's *Earls Court Carmen* — since a 1988 *Samson et Dalila* in Bregenz. "I got a bit jaded with the opera world," says Pimlott. "In Europe, very much the fashionable thing with opera has been to say, 'What are we going to do with *Bohème* and *Tosca*?' as opposed to just discovering them. I rather

hope we've been through that phase."

But Pimlott prefers the challenge of the theatre. "In opera, the conductor is doing at least 50 per cent, and the composer has written so much of it there for you. The director is much more at the centre of theatre. You have to find the music in a play, and it's much harder to do that."

© The Miser, previewing at the Olivier (071-926 2252), opens on Thursday; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, previews from June 1 and opens June 12 at the Palladium (071-437 7373).

CINEMA

Game for giving them everything

Twice voted Europe's best film actress, Carmen Maura talks to Stephanie Billen

Smaller than she seems on screen, but with gestures and expressions larger than life, Carmen Maura talks vivaciously about "life after Pedro". The Spanish actress is best known in this country for a string of films with unorthodox director Pedro Almodóvar, notably the manic comedy, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. That picture won her the title of Best Actress in the European Film Awards, but it also marked the end of a chapter, a serious rift between herself and Almodóvar.

Now, two years later, she has won the European award again, this time with *Ay, Carmela*, a tragic-comedy from Carlos Saura about a Republican singer in the Spanish Civil War who is forced to entertain enemy troops. "It is good to change directors because each one asks different things of you. With Saura, it is a miracle — sometimes he would say 'Carmen' and I would know exactly what he wanted... To make the director happy is one of the reasons why I make films."

Another is the sheer fun of shooting, "the game" of filmmaking as she puts it. She relished Carmela's musical scenes. "I say to the soldiers in the film, 'I am not a good singer. I am not a good dancer,

but in the movie I am the best!'" When I go on stage everybody goes 'Waaaaah!'. Maura shouts and cheers, recreating the moment. "I realise that Carmela has a lot of confidence in herself, and also a lot of confidence in her *tetas* [breasts]. It is for this reason that I wear a very low-cut dress. And she is proud of her ankles too. She is warm with the audience. She gives everything to them."

The challenge of Carmela came with her innocence. "She is so good that I feel I must clean my eyes," says Maura. "She must react like a child. She sees everything in black and white."

The actress admits to being more at home with the character she is at present playing in *Le Sauvage*, a worldly-wise journalist who becomes pregnant. "I think this is the first time I feel I am the ideal person to play this character. When I hear I am pregnant for all the film, I say 'no!'. Then I read the script and I think, 'OK, I make the sacrifice.'"

The narrative twist that convinced her is that the baby refuses to be born and the woman has to communicate with the foetus.

Marion Hanel's bizarre Belgian comedy is one of several back-to-back projects which have kept her busy since *Women on the Verge*.



Carmen as Carmela: "In the movie, I am the best!"

Next to be shot is a French film by Roger Planchon about Louis XIV. "I play a Spanish queen, I always wanted to be a queen," she says.

Maura feels that Europe rather than Hollywood is where her dreams will come true. "I think it is almost impossible for a Spanish actress in America." At 45, her battle days are over. "It is not an easy career. It took me many years to be a film actress. But at least I am prepared for success."

Her fights with Almodóvar are also over. She is on speaking terms with him, but feels nervous about filming with him again. She refuses to talk about the row, preferring to remember times past.

Her favourite of their films together is *Law of Desire*, but she has affection, too, for *Dark Habits*, a comedy about nuns. "A few weeks before the shooting, he still had not got a character for me. Then he rang and said: 'This is not a big part but you will have a pet tiger in the film: everyone will remember you.'"

© Ay, Carmela is showing at the Lumière (071-836 0691)

CONCERTS

Hall best wishes at 40

A rough calculation says that I have devoted, so far, about 2,000 hours of my life to sitting passively in the Festival Hall (mostly in A38, terrace, with its vital extra leg-room). Time well spent? Well, there were those Monday nights when a comatose orchestra under a witless conductor plodded through Brahms Two with the flair of a supermarket assistant checking out groceries. But on the whole, *je ne regrette rien*. For all its dry acoustics and aura of functional municipality, the Festival Hall continues to provide more musical excitement each year than any other British hall.

Had its fortieth anniversary fallen in less pinched times it would surely have been more lavishly celebrated. For example, the Greater London Council, in its grandiloquent heyday, might have marked the date with a gigantic fireworks display and the erection of a couple of peace pagodas. Extravagant, yes; but at least Londoners would have noticed the birthday. Instead, there was a kind of tepid free-for-all in the foyers on Friday night, with the noise supplied by bands bearing wacky names: "Feetwarmers" and "Mint Juleps". The occasion deserved better.

Friday's main entertainment (before the Feetwarmers hit their stride, that is) came from the Philharmonia under Esa-Pekka Salonen. International names indeed: the Philharmonia has just announced that it will be resident at the Châtelet in Paris for five years from 1993 (a splendid riposte after the disappointment of losing the South Bank residency race), while Salonen takes over the Los Angeles Philharmonic next season. Judging from his increasing tendency to dance

Richard Morrison pays a critic's tribute to the Festival Hall

the Bolshoi. Here was a programme of epic ambitions — Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* and chunks from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* — that fell short of epic realisation. This was partly because the orchestra, though formidable in tutti, lapsed crucially when its wind principals were exposed; but mostly because Lazarev rarely delineated enough detail in these huge scores. He wallowed for pages, as if spooning treacle.

But at least the evening was graced by Anne Evans, in full majesty for Brünnhilde's Immolation. Her intonation was spot on, and every consonant was articulated to evoke the mood of the text. A Wagnerian soprano who sings every note in tune and who cares about the words? What is the world coming to?

The concert, sponsored by American Airlines, also included Oliver Knussen's short Third Symphony. Begun in 1973, finished in 1979, (a fairly characteristic gestation period for Knussen), the work is impressive for two reasons: it handles a big orchestra with clarity and assurance; and its structure is unique. A jerky succession of punchy ideas culminates in a huge chord; then the symphony unrolls into a series of relaxed variations. It is rather like the process of winding up a clock, then setting it in motion.

On Saturday, the BBC Symphony Orchestra played in the Festival Hall under Alexander Lazarev, chief conductor at

the Bolshoi. Here was a programme of epic ambitions — Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* and chunks from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* — that fell short of epic realisation. This was partly because the orchestra, though formidable in tutti, lapsed crucially when its wind principals were exposed; but mostly because Lazarev rarely delineated enough detail in these huge scores. He wallowed for pages, as if spooning treacle.

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BRIEFING

Voices break

THERE are changes already taking place within the London Philharmonic under new music director, Franz Welser-Möst. At a rehearsal last week, Richard Cooke, chorus master of the London Philharmonic Chorus, announced his August departure. According to marketing manager Judy Grahame, the agreement to part is "amicable" and has been in the air for some time. No successor has yet been announced, but Welser-Möst has reportedly indicated he wants to play a more active role in training the choir.

Swede success

SWEDEN has scored its second win in the Eurovision Song Contest in the closest finish in the competition's 36-year history. Carola, who was a Eurovision contestant in 1983 at the age of 16, took the honours on her second attempt with "Captured by a Love Storm", joining Abba as the only Swedish Eurovision winners. The singer scored 146 points, the same as the French entry, but won because she had received more ten-point scores from the international judges. Britain's Samantha Janus, 18, had been the odds-on favourite with "A Message to Your Heart"; she finished joint tenth with Ireland.



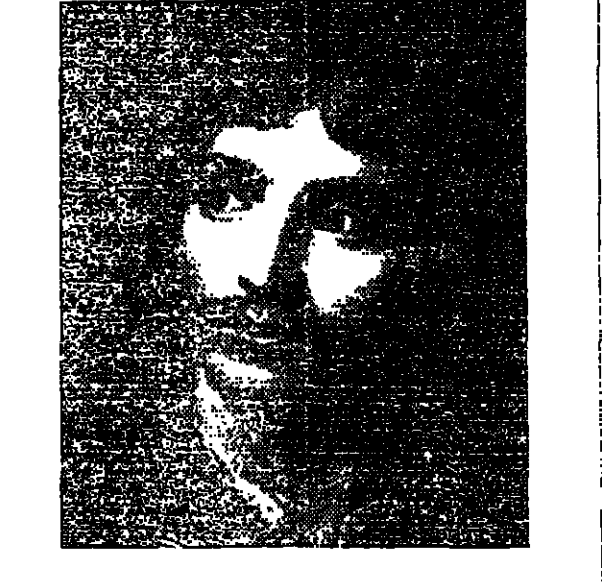
In Abba's tracks: the final winner, Carola

Last chance...

RICHARD ALSTON'S Mozart ballet, *Dealing With Shadows*, disappears from the Rambert Dance Company repertoire after performances on Wednesday and Thursday at the Alhambra in Bradford (0274 752000). But more regretted will be the departure of Siobhan Davies's *Embarque*, inspired by her experience of the vastness of America. This has its last scheduled performances on Friday and Saturday.

REVIEWS PAGE 18
M.C. Hammer, Nureyev and the return of Dallas

'With such a fine literary heritage, France has so little regard for its students of literature'



This Friday. The TES investigates what European schools are teaching about their literary heritage.



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Bush stumbles: Democrats plan to bring him down

Pity the joggers of the White House press corps. For thousands of early morning miles these past two years they have run by George Bush's side, often when they would rather have been in bed. And on the one run when the fitness-fanatic president has a brief intimation of mortality, where are they? Nowhere. On Saturday only secret-service officers witnessed the mountain stumble, which taught Americans the meaning of "aerial fibrillation".

The medical reports have been calming. But, however optimistic the doctors may be, the political writers still get their say. In 1988 there were few votes in the jibe that Vice-President Dan Quayle would be only a heart-beat away from the White House. Now there may be more, perhaps many more.

As would-be presidential Democrats consider whether or not

to challenge the seemingly unbeatable Mr Bush in 1992, no factor is too small to be weighed in the balance. Every sign of lengthening recession, Iraqi quagmire or presidential complicity in decade-old electoral scandals may tip the scales.

Today in Cleveland, Ohio, self-styled "mainstream Democrats" are meeting for the first convention of the Democratic Leadership Council, the group dedicated to wresting party power from its liberal wing and winning the White House.

Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, who supported the Gulf war and is a prominent figure in the D.L.C., has been warring for months about a presidential bid. He is asking himself whether a defeat in 1992, following his defeat for the nomination in 1988, would make it impossible for him to run in

Peter Stothard, US editor, reports on a meeting today that could help decide the 1992 line-up

1996, the year when Dan Quayle might not just be a factor but the full-fledged candidate. Mr Gore was already close to the decision that to stay out of the race would be worse than to run it. Observers now expect him "to go".

Douglas Wilder, whose fiscal conservatism, toughness on crime and stature as Virginia's first elected black governor gives him broad appeal, is also in Cleveland.



Presidential possibles (from left): Gore, Wilder and Cuomo

His choice is easier. He did not run in 1988 and a good attempt now would prepare him for 1996. He is strongly fancied as a vice-presidential choice in 1992.

Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House majority leader, whose aggressive protectionist rhetoric made him an object of fear to the Bush campaign in 1988, seems currently to have ruled himself out. But, according to the latest

of the Democrat machine that would be at risk were he to try and fail again.

The Achilles in the Democrat tent is New York governor, Mario Cuomo. If he fights he will transform the battlefield. He is the best orator in the Democratic party, the most certain of his convictions and a deadly campaigner who would make the ritual pre-election debates with the president into genuine prime-time television. The Cuomo campaign is still on a leash. Its standard-bearer is planning a lecture tour. Meanwhile his rivals are working hard to discredit his chances with traditional Democrat backers.

Many Washington Democrats almost prefer to have a Republican president whom they can do deals with than a Democrat who might reasonably demand obedience. As Christopher Matthews of

the *San Francisco Examiner* wrote last week, American government has become a mom-and-pop affair with Republican presidents doing the daddy-jobs like frightening burglars and Democrats congressmen playing mummy and keeping the fridge full. While Republicans meet to discuss world issues, "Democrat confabs seem like Tupperware parties" — and everyone is happy.

Except, of course, those Democrats who want to be president and those who think that mom-and-pop management has left the family with a multi-trillion dollar overdraft. This weekend will have given such people some encouragement. When George Bush goes on his next recreational run, he can rely on some more enthusiastic competition than in recent weeks: so too when he runs for the White House.

Ronald Butt

Can Major leap history's hurdle?

A fourth Tory victory would shatter Labour and reshape British politics

Any rational assessment of the present political balance must start from the simple fact that, if the Tories win the coming general election, they will have held continuous power for longer (17 years) than any government since the first Reform Act of 1832 set us on the path towards democratic parliaments. Such prolonged tenure of office today would mean something much more significant than it did in the days of government by aristocratic groups.

It would mean that for all their discontent with the Tories' recent performance, the voters still saw no alternative. It would confirm that the Conservatives, having absorbed most that was valuable in Labour's contribution to political ethics, were now the natural party of government. A fourth defeat for Labour, despite its self-reform, would shatter the party and change the whole shape of politics. Opposition would have to be reborn. To understand the present situation, we must acknowledge the height of the hurdle that winning a fourth Conservative term represents for Mr Major.

Yet he could win it. Although the local election results suggest either a small outright Labour victory or a hung parliament with Labour as the largest single party, the opinion polls indicate a narrow Tory lead. The outcome is wide open. The most significant feature of the local elections was the Liberal Democrats' successes, which seem to have surprised them more than they did me. After their Ribblesdale victory, I predicted that we might well see a new period of three-party politics, as in 1974, when the voters turned away from Edward Heath but so disliked Labour that they voted in large numbers for the third option. The odds on this have strengthened.

The Tories express confidence, however, that this will not happen. They admit that so long a period of office would be a handicap if it were under one leader, but argue that the voters regard Mr Major's government as essentially a new one. Their astonishing recovery of 20 points in the opinion polls since last year is seen as proof of this.

Even in Scotland, where Mr Major this week addresses the Scottish Tories' annual conference, Conservative support has risen to 25 per cent. That may not be much comfort in a country where only 19 per cent support the present United Kingdom and the rest (including some Tories) want some kind of devolution, which Mr Major is determined not to concede if it means any tax-raising powers for a Scottish assembly. But even in Scotland, the Tories are not as unpopular as they were. But the Tories beware of relying too much on the argument that Mr Major's government is essentially a new one. Elections are usually determined largely by a government's longer-term record, which means that both the great achievements of the Thatcher period and its mistakes will be in the voters' reckoning. Nor is Mr Major's personal popularity a guarantee of success. Harold Wilson was more popular than Edward Heath in 1970, but he lost.

Ministers argue that falling interest rates and mortgages, and reviving economic optimism, will do the trick. Though unemployment will still be rising when the election takes place, whether this October or in 1992, they point out that unemployment was at 10 per cent at the time of the 1987 election (compared with 7.4 per cent today), and at 10.5 per cent, and rising, in 1983. They hope the unemployment figures will matter less than reviving general prosperity, including the political benefits of (inflationary) rising wages.

But those Tory victories in the face of high unemployment were won against a Labour party still too extreme to be electable. The question now is not only how farlingering distrust of it will work for Mr Major, despite Mr Kinnock's revisionism, but whether support for the Liberal Democrats will evolve from protest voting to something more positive. Will it be powered to any serious extent by an urge for a hung parliament which could produce a new electoral system? That could well be the decisive question.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Only the poor pay for their Twieglets. This, surely, must be the first law of socio-dynamics: *Availability of free Twieglets rises in inverse proportion to income*. Nor does man live by Twieglets alone. Peanuts, crisps and cauliflower dips are key supplements to the social grazer's diet.

For years I have been living mostly on the free snacks provided at social functions, and Twieglets lie at the heart of my alimentary strategy. Rich, tasty and available free at the point of consumption to all, Twieglets have sustained me in excellent health.

Since about 1978 I have hardly ever had to purchase Twieglets on my own account, yet my weekly Twieglet consumption (TPW) has risen steadily. TPW, a vital indicator of prosperity and career success, is reliable through the middle ranges of social acceptance, after the subject has emerged from pork scratchings and before he achieves canapés. TPW reacts fast and sensitively to even the smallest variations in status: the slightest downturn in one's popularity brings with it a corresponding withdrawal in the Twieglet facility, while even just a late-night appearance on a minority television channel triggers an immediate boost in Twieglet-availability. It is no exaggeration to say that the rich and famous come in on a tide of snacks.

Canapés are the gift on the gingerbread. When first I was invited, as an MP, to say a few words at a "champagne and

canapés" reception hosted by a wealthy couple in my constituency, I wondered why people so well-placed in society should be obliged to entertain in a tent. Now I know better. The occasion introduced me to hot prunes wrapped in bacon. But I had not quite cracked the canapé barrier, and have still not done so. Twieglets remain my bread and butter.

Twieglets are the central, but not the sole, element in a nutritionally balanced diet. The Twieglets (two bowls of which it is possible to consume standing at the House of Commons press gallery bar, replacing supper and washed down with one small whisky bought by your friends) provide all the carbohydrate a man needs in a day, and 27 times his requirement for salt. But certain essential vitamins are not present in this diet. Scurvy is an ever-present threat on the cocktail circuit. My own recommendation for avoiding this is to eat the slices of lemon left in emptied gin-and-tonic glasses, before the barman gets them.

Carotene and calcium can be taken together in those cream-based raw carrot and cauliflower dips. Olive oil, found in olives, offers helpful protection from coronary disease. Swallow the stones: they provide useful roughage. The cocktail sticks, can be used to pick your teeth, guarding against tooth decay.

But careful planning is needed. Orienteering in the world of social grazing requires not just diplomacy, but tactical caution. Where worlds collide

(along the frontier, for instance, between the Twieglet-and-olive world, and the world of canapés) live vol-au-vents. Beware of them. They are of little nutritional value, and deceptively hot inside, the contents burning your tongue while the periphery collapses into a dandruff storm of flakes avalanching down your tie. Over-eager grazers have come badly unstuck with these.

For the key is not to be hungry. That is why you are offered snacks in the first place: on the assumption that you did not need them. If you need food you are unlikely to be the kind of person it is in your host's interests to feed — or to take to the Cup Final, for that matter.

Last year John Birt, deputy director general of the BBC, was kind enough to include me in his Wembley party. I do mean "kind enough" because in this case it was a personal kindness: I am of little consequence to the BBC.

I had a marvellous time. It was an afternoon to look forward to all week. But for someone I know who works in a pub in Derbyshire, who serves Twieglets rather than has them served to him, it would have been something to look forward to all year. After the match I took my used ticket to the pub, and he asked to keep it. Having no spouse, I should like a sort of all-purpose doggy bag to take through life, so that I could share a few of these pleasures. They seem to come down to us with a note attached, "not transferable", and it's a pity.

But that is an impractical, and probably pious, sentiment.

Tradition round the twist

Bernard Levin finds the silly season already in spate with wild theories about the Gioconda, Christ and time itself



blood pressure". (It's a mercy that the good doctor didn't say it was something He ate, particularly since the theory rests on Christ's "ashen skin and immobility", the familiar stigma of serious tummy trouble.)

But it is when our doctor gets to the Resurrection that the noise of pink elephants flying round his hat becomes almost deafening, what happened, we learn, was that The Crucified was experiencing "transmarginal inhibition — a state of activity of the brain in which hysterical suggestibility occurs", and if you can imagine a more exact description of Dr Lloyd Davies you must have a nonpareil imagination. (Dear Christians, be not affronted by him: your Lord has had a book written about Him

in which He is proved conclusively, at least to the satisfaction of the author, to be nothing but a hallucinogenic mushroom. As for my light tone, be not vexed; would you rather I should take seriously such a wonderfully tremendous noodle?)

Still they come, not single spies but in battalions. Now we have an assault on history itself, mounted in a book called *Centuries of Darkness*, by a group of scientists who have been digging everything up and jarring it. The theory, as far as I understand it (which is not very far), is that history has had a bad attack of the hiccups, the result of which is that everything happened 250 years later than you and I have always been taught to believe. For instance, it is still

agreed that there was a Pharaoh called Tutankhamun, but he happened two or three hundred years later. (Look here, I am not saying this; it is these inquisitive archaeologists. I need that disclaimer because I'm damned if I am going to be done in by the Mummy's Curse, which, as you know, strikes anyone who lays a finger on King Tut or, presumably, his chronology.)

This is unsettling. It is all very well to disturb Tut's remains and fall under a mis-dated chariot, or to shove the Trojan War onto the middle of the 10th century BC, or even to bring King Solomon up to date; but we now refer to 1316 *And All That*. And what about "Please to remember, the Fifth of November, Gunpowder,

Treason and Plot"? It is true that nobody remembers the year of that celebrated event, but I don't like the thought of not remembering it 250 years later.

And what about the Battle of Waterloo? Do you realise it hasn't happened, and won't until 2065? But now I come to think of it, if everything is pushed on that far, who am I talking to? None of you have been born yet, and I am wasting my breath. A Cambridge professor, who has written the foreword to the book about this business, says "a chronological revolution is on its way". He can say that again, and he will have plenty of time to, considering that the book will be published two and a half centuries from now.

But none of this catalogue of lunacy so far recorded can claim the Mad Hatter Prize; that goes, by universal acclamation, to another lot of scientists — astronomers, these — who have found, or think they have, "part of an enormous ring that surrounds a star 170,000 light-years away... the elongated yellow ring consisting of hydrogen gas is an object of a kind never seen before... a very hot blue star was throwing out its hydrogen gas... until it collapsed under its own weight..."

And I hope it stays fine for the experts, together with their yellow rings and their blue stars, their Black Holes, their red shifts, their Milky Way, and eventually their little green men. For there was another item of evidence, which I think you will agree clinches the argument; the astronomers were alerted to all those celestial goings-on by seeing "a huge structure in space that looks like Napoleon's hat."

Now we all know what to do with people who say they are Napoleon; knock them down, sit on their heads, and make soothing noises until the men with the strait-jacket arrive. So far, it is true, they only claim to be wearing Napoleon's hat; but I assure you it won't stop there, and indeed it won't stop anywhere, for those who insist that they are Napoleon sooner or later demand to be addressed as Julius Caesar.

Well, there it is; as my mother used to say: "There's more out than in." I am sorry to burden you with the evidence on a bank holiday, but my duty demanded no less. Eat your sandwiches in the sunshine, but if you are approached by Mona Lisa arm in arm with Napoleon and told that the Crucifixion never happened, and even if it did it was 250 years late, evince no surprise.

Psst, want to hear a secret?

The Ministry of Defence is in danger of giving security an even worse name than it has after refusing to provide MPs with information it had already released to Moscow. The MoD's intriguing sense of priorities leaked out at a recent select committee meeting on defence when MPs asked the number of Phantom jets at RAF Widenburgh in West Germany. "That's classified," was the reply. The Diary is not giving away any secret by publishing the figure: 28. It's there, in black and white, in Nato's submission to the Conventional Forces in Europe talks.

"We actually had the papers which the MoD had given to the Russians for the CFE talks in front of us," says Tory backbencher Michael Mates, a member of the committee. "I asked why the Soviets were allowed to know but not the British public." The hapless MoD official replied that withholding such information was a matter of policy, which could not be changed on the hoof. "So," teased Mates, "have you been lying to the Soviets?" No, the official replied, before again pleading the constraints of MoD policy.

"It was an unbelievably civil servant answer," says Mates. "The MoD finds it impossible to confirm whether Wednesday really is Wednesday despite the thawing of the cold war." On his way back from the Gulf recently Mates stopped at an RAF base in Germany and discovered, thanks to a chat in the Naafi shop, that it was to be closed. At the select committee meeting he asked for confirmation, and the MoD man said that too was strictly classified.

So the MP who wants to know what's going on should direct his enquiries to the Naafi or the KGB. But definitely not the MoD.



Wok 'n' roll

For more than 30 years Elvis Presley records were burned in China as supreme examples of Western decadence. Now the 1958 album "Elvis's Golden Hits" has just been released, though only after two years of checking the lyrics for subversive anti-communist sub-texts. *Jail-house Rock*, it is said, touched raw revolutionary nerve but managed to sneak its way through.

Presley is known in China as Ma Wong (King of the Cats). So popular is he that a Hong Kong company has signed up a local singer to make a record of his hits, in Mandarin.

Kiss and make up

There was the recording company that said no to the Beatles and the publisher who saw no merit in Orwell. To the Sussex town of Lewes goes the honour of refusing a free loan of Auguste Rodin's *The Kiss*. Now, almost 80 years later, it is trying to make amends with an exhibition honouring Edward Perry Warren, the American expatriate art collector who made the offer.

When the work was erected in 1913 locals were shocked by the sight of a nude couple locked in embrace and the town hall decided it would have a "prurient effect" on soldiers stationed nearby. The sculpture was covered with a sheet

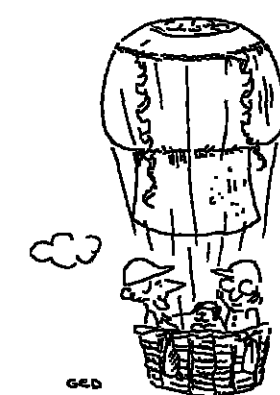
and eventually found a home in the Tate Gallery.

The September exhibition, at Lewes House, where Warren lived, will be of photographs of his collection of Greek and Roman antiquities. And *The Kiss*? The organisers hope for a short-term loan, but that seems unlikely. The Tate could be forgiven for telling the town it once had its chance but blew it comprehensively.

High society

The nation's fund-raising life will hang in the balance on Thursday — Ascension Day — when two of the country's most tireless campaigners, the Duchess of Norfolk and Lady Howe, take to the skies in a hot air balloon.

The duchess suffers from vertigo, but has already mapped out the remedy for her fear. "I shall have a stiff drink before we take off, and some champagne in a



bamper on board," she says. In which case, she continues, picking her metaphors carefully, it should be "a great lift".

The flight will be from Hatfield House, in Hertfordshire, in aid of London Lighthouse and the duchess's own charity. Help the Hos-pices. Sponsorship forms are to be

found in British Gas showrooms.

For both the duchess and Lady Howe, it will be their first balloon venture, but they will be in capable hands. Robin Batchelor, a highly experienced balloonist, will be in charge of the controls — and will presumably demonstrate his expertise opening the champagne.

Open invitation

The Labour party, of course, claims a strong belief in open government, but inviting a rival candidate on a guided tour of the campaign headquarters during a by-election is surely taking things a little far. The invitation has been unwittingly extended to Roger Evans, the Tory candidate in Monmouth, by the Labour-controlled Gwent county council.

Impressed by Evans's efforts to save Larkfield House, an early Victorian school building, which it closed four years ago with a view to redevelopment, the council recently invited him to inspect the interior "at a convenient date". But councillors appear to have overlooked the fact that they recently granted a lease to temporary tenants. Evans yesterday wrote to the council to fix an appointment before May 16. Why the hurry? That is polling day, and until then Larkfield House is home to the Labour campaign HQ.

● *Writers of the information pack provided by the government's Training Agency at a conference on employment last week, should follow their own advice. "Literacy is now regarded as an increasingly pressing problem," said the pack, presumably meaning illiteracy. It went on to commend a literacy computer program called Smartwriter that "can pick out common grammatical errors and suggests corrections. Why then did the blurb refer consistently to that most valuable of reference works as a "dictionary"?*



LIBERAL DELUSIONS

The coming month marks the start of the government's fourth year in office: hence talk in the corridors of Westminster of hung parliaments, post-election pacts and proportional representation. Such talk is as predictable as elections themselves, but it is supremely implausible. Anything politicians may say now about what they might or might not demand or concede in the arithmetical accident of a hung parliament is so much hot air.

Most talk comes from parties of the centre, currently the Liberal Democrats and that one-person party, the rebel Social Democrats under David Owen. The former's leader, Paddy Ashdown, yesterday reiterated his bargaining position. If either Neil Kinnock or John Major wants support to form a majority in the House of Commons, he will have to promise instant legislation to introduce proportional representation; not debates or referendums or constitutional conferences, but a hard-and-fast bill. This time, implies the tough-minded Mr Ashdown, there is to be no pussy-footing as there was during the Lib-Lab pact of 1977-8.

The leaders of both main parties are emphatically against PR. They know it would place them in precisely the predicament Mr Ashdown is now threatening, of being at the mercy of much smaller parties on central points of policy. Rarely has Britain been worse governed than in 1977-9, when the Callaghan government found itself frantically deferring to Ulster Unionists, Scottish nationalists and the Liberals, while afraid to take any bold decision for fear of losing support in a vote of confidence. Any electoral system that made such periods of indecisive government more likely is not going to be popular with anybody in the political establishment.

The chance is that a hung parliament will be of such a composition that the Liberals will have only one real choice, whether or not to ally themselves with the largest of the two main parties to enable it to govern, either with or without the Ulster Unionists. For all Mr Ashdown's tough talk, this is hardly a strong position. Unless he really has

both main parties at level pegging, which is most unlikely, he can only make his demand of one of them. If the recipient is John Major, the Tories will surely show him the door. If it is Labour, preferred to the Tories in an election where Labour's policies are barely distinguishable from those of the Liberal Democrats, Labour would simply dare Mr Ashdown to vote down the Queen's Speech and precipitate another election. Yesterday, Labour's leaders indicated as much. The result would probably be catastrophic for Mr Ashdown's party.

Both the Tories and Labour might cover their public posture by offering a meaningless compromise, on the grounds that so important a constitutional matter should be considered by a royal commission followed by a referendum. This would directly call Mr Ashdown's bluff. Though a Mori poll for the Rowntree Trust recently showed two-to-one backing for PR, such polls are famously fickle. In almost every referendum held in a Western democracy, whether on divorce in Ireland, staying in the EC in Britain, or retaining Nato membership in Spain, polls have shown support for change at the beginning of a campaign but a vote for the status quo by the end, especially if the status quo is backed by the government.

The Liberal Democrats have long made electoral reform a central plank of their policy. The party has fought seats in every corner of the land yet never won more than a handful. It does well when and where voters know they are not putting a Liberal Democrat into Downing Street. So who now is Mr Ashdown to hold a gun at parties which beat him time and again at general election time?

Some moderate electoral reform might be introduced in Britain if one of the two main parties thinks reform would serve its interest. Other constitutional changes, such as greater devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, might serve that interest. But giving Mr Ashdown's party the means to acquire a "blocking third" on government policy is the last thing either would concede. Mr Ashdown's demand would be outrageous were it not just pre-electoral tension.

DEALERS IN DEATH

Hopes for a moratorium in the export of advanced weapons to the Middle East appear to be as chimerical as the "peace process". There are disturbing reports that Syria is spending its new influx of cash from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states on arms. According to American satellite observations and Israeli intelligence, President Assad has been buying arms worth some \$2 billion from China, the Soviet Union and North Korea. A consignment of Scud missiles and mobile launchers is due in Syria soon, the third since the Gulf war ended.

Syria is not alone. Egypt and Saudi Arabia are also negotiating arms purchases. In Algeria the Chinese have admitted helping in the construction of the Oussera nuclear power plant, which the Americans say is too big for its ostensible function. It appears to be designed to produce the Arab world's first nuclear bomb.

The Israelis, vociferous in their warnings of Syrian rearmament, have their own reasons for trying to drive a wedge between the West and Syria, America's Gulf war ally. The Shamir government, fearful that the Bush administration may try to exert pressure on Israel to negotiate with the Palestinians by holding up vital economic aid or arms supplies, needs to show that Syria is a continuing threat. It also wants to avoid any United Nations register of armaments, which might lead to interference in Israel's own nuclear programme.

But the world has good reason to be worried by any Middle East arms trade, particularly involving Peking or Pyongyang. North Korea is an especially dangerous case. The Americans have clear satellite evidence that the North Koreans are proceeding apace with a nuclear reactor and processing facilities at Yongbyon and may be only a few

years from building their own bombs. The embattled regime of Kim Il Sung is under growing economic and political pressure, which has only increased its obsessive secrecy and paranoia.

At the age of 79, President Kim has not renounced his dream of reunifying Korea by force. The discovery of tunnels under the demilitarised zone, of plans for dams that could be exploded to flood Seoul and other plots show that even a bankrupt nation led by a megalomaniac can still be a danger.

Of all the signatories to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, North Korea alone has never allowed in a single inspector. Repeated requests to open up its programme to outside view have been rebuffed with the insistence that America must first withdraw all nuclear weapons from the South. North Korea's former friends in Moscow say they are cutting off nuclear cooperation. It may be too late. Kim Il Sung's denunciation of the nuclear arms race to the International Parliamentary Union, meeting unusually in Pyongyang, was pure hypocrisy. Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, has probably been conveying China's own alarm during his visit over the past few days.

The Chinese insist that keeping a line open to the North Korean regime is the only way of influencing it. It would be more convincing were China itself to give full details of its nuclear cooperation with Algeria. There is still hope that the new seriousness about stopping the export of the most deadly weapons of mass destruction can be translated into something tangible in the United Nations. China would have to be involved. But as long as mavericks such as Kim Il Sung are ready to build their own bombs and supply Scuds to anyone with the cash, that hope remains only a glimmer.

FREE RIDE FOR THE BOOKIES

Commons select committees are most effective when they take up subjects that do not raise party hackles. The insular world of horseracing, with its century-old customs and modern-day "crisis", has been a good subject for the home affairs committee. Leaks of its report into the betting levy system, due to be published in a fortnight, suggest that it has gone to the heart of what ails this sport-cum-industry.

In Britain, unlike any other big racing nation, most of the profits from betting generated by racing do not return to the sport. What is left after tax stays in the satchels of the large off-course bookmakers, Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral. Profit of £150 million from the £1 billion lost each year by punters on racing bets is an enviable yield. Yet while their businesses have prospered, the sport upon which they depend has suffered from financial neglect and its own mismanagement.

Visitors to the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday had to pay up to £20 admission, compared with \$5 for the best racing in Australia and America. They "enjoyed" far worse facilities. Gates are falling. Prize money is low compared with other leading racing countries, so low that some of the larger owners are considering moving to France, where the rewards on offer from a sport funded by an enviable yield are more tempting.

Racing depends mainly on a levy worth £40 million a year, paid by punters via deductions and "tax" on off-course bets. The original intention of Parliament was for

the levy to come from bookmakers' profits, but because this was never clearly enough spelt out in law, the bookmakers have simply passed that cost on to the punters. The bookmakers themselves contribute a negligible amount to the sport, mainly through race sponsorship.

Though the whole industry needs a management shake-up, the home affairs select committee has rightly concluded that racing deserves a bigger return from the betting turnover. The off-course bookmakers seem to care little for racing's difficulties, yet their multi-million pound businesses would be virtually non-existent without the diverse fare provided from Ascot and Cartmel, Goodwood and Newton Abbot.

An extra £10 to £20 million is being mooted as the sum racing should receive, paid directly by the large bookmakers, not by punters. Sir John Sparrow, the new chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, seems to have won the confidence of all sides of the racing industry. Bookmakers now have an ideal chance to sit down and discuss how they can put more cash into racing, and how fixtures can be improved to maximise betting turnover for them. If the betting battalions ignore the message and philosophy underlying the select committee report, the home secretary should have no hesitation in imposing the MPs' proposals. Once again with a traditional interest group, the choice is between self-regulation or regulation imposed from above.

Priorities to fight pollution

From Dr Robin Russell Jones

Sir, The report by Michael McCarthy, "Sir Crispin demands action to avoid ecological disaster" (April 27), points out that Sir Crispin Tickell is an environmental adviser to John Major. Let us hope that he has more influence on the new prime minister than he did on Mrs Thatcher.

Britain stands alone in Europe by refusing to stabilise emissions of carbon dioxide until the year 2005, even though this policy holds no promise of any environmental improvement. Because carbon dioxide is accumulating in the atmosphere, stabilising emissions merely allows the situation to continue deteriorating at the current rate.

Furthermore, the government is privatising the electricity supply industry, thereby ensuring that fossil fuel industries have a vested interest in maximising output, rather than investing in energy efficiency.

The government has refused to contemplate a carbon tax, failed to invest in alternative sources of energy, and declined to penalise cars with larger or less fuel-efficient engines.

Sir Crispin likens ecosystems to the structure of a boat. You can remove only so many rivets before the boat starts to sink. World leaders remind me of the first-class passengers on the Titanic. They complain about the service or the food whilst the ship is sinking slowly beneath them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL JONES,
University of London,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
Hammersmith Hospital,
Ducane Road, W12.

Runways at Heathrow

From Sir Geoffrey Pattie, MP for Chertsey and Walton (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Botwood (April 22) pleads for yet another runway at Heathrow and explains the policy of the Chartered Institute of Transport. I question whether the institute has really looked at the implications of concentrating so much airport growth into Heathrow and the west side of London.

The Heathrow area suffers from more road traffic congestion than anywhere else around London. Schemes such as the Paddington-Heathrow rail link will help alleviate only some of the current problems. We should not develop this link and then expand Heathrow so that existing traffic congestion levels are immediately repeated.

Not very long ago the number of movements at Heathrow was to be restricted to 275,000 a year. With prospects of quieter aircraft this gave reasonable hope to local residents. That limit was scrapped. Residents are now faced with the prospect of 350,000 movements a year on the existing two runways and further growth if Mr Botwood gets his way.

The government, with the help of the Civil Aviation Authority, has set about the task of finding a location for a new runway to serve the South-east. The brief to the working party is rightly to consider both aviation and environmental implications.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY PATTIE (Chairman,
Heathrow group of MPs),
House of Commons.

Salisbury close

From Mr C. G. Monk

Sir, I was puzzled by the bad press suffered by the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral, for the recommendations which they seek to implement the construction of an elevated causeway across John Constable's carter meadows. I therefore referred to the report on which these recommendations are based, "Rothwell Thomas Salisbury, The Close Conservation and Management", where I found:

The environmental management components of the plan will consist of the tactics of implementation where incremental decisions can be made in a phased and co-ordinated way dependent on need and resource.

I puzzle no more.
Yours faithfully,
C. G. MONK,
14 Harnham Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Knotty problem

From Dr T. N. Harlow

Sir, Medical men find the tie an indispensable aid to the safe opening of glass ampoules. Many lacerated fingers have thus been prevented by this "ridiculous garment devoid of function" (Mr Foster, April 29).

Yours faithfully,
T. N. HARLOW,
West Barn, Rull Farm,
Cullompton, Devon.

IEA's role

From Lord Harris of High Cross and others

Sir, Your Diarist (April 24) described the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) as "another influential Tory think-tank". Since the 1950s the IEA led the intellectual counter-revolution in rejection of the post-war resort to the state and the neglect of the market by all schools of academic thought and all political parties.

Because your Diarist's inadvertent distortion of the IEA's rationale could damage its charitable status, we write as the original directors to refute this serious misapprehension.

Broadening sixth-form education

From Dr H. F. A. Strachan

Sir, Your leader of April 30, in welcoming the Labour party's adoption of a policy to broaden education for 16 to 18-year-olds, administers a few swipes at universities. The accusations are not all well-founded. The opposition to the Higginson report in 1988 came not from higher education but from the government. The latter, so far as I am aware, never even invited the former to discuss the matter.

Over the last five years a gradual conversion has taken place. The need to go down an educational road similar to that long travelled by Scotland and by most of Europe now commands general support. The Higginson report, with its recommendation for a programme of five learner A levels, bridging both arts and sciences, has, for all its supposed flaws, played a part in this. So too has the move to GCSE. The absurdity of changing pre-16 education while assuming that 16 to 18 schooling could be left the same has become manifest. To that extent your leader was curiously old-fashioned.

Each stage of education builds on the last. The reform of one has an impact on the other. Therefore, those university lecturers whom you castigate for opposing any change to A levels have a point. Universities will not be unaffected. Undergraduates who come up possessed of a broader education but with less knowledge in depth will need to spend longer at university if they are to graduate with levels of achievement comparable to those currently gained.

It is absurd for there to be talk about the national need for more well-qualified scientists and engineers while constructing an educational system that militates against their production. Four-year courses are the norm in Scotland; the same will be needed in England. No party has yet said how it would address this problem.

The massive expansion of higher education implied by a broadening of 16 to 18 education is in the universities' interests. The question is, who is prepared to fund it? The education of an individual is a continuum; let its reform be treated as such.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. A. STRACHAN
(Senior Tutor),
Corpus Christi College,
Cambridge.
May 1.

Talking to workers

From the President of the Amalgamated Engineering Union

Sir, I have read with interest the correspondence (April 30, May 2) arising out of your leading article, "Talking to the workers" (April 23). The letter from Mr Richard Price of the CBI is interesting, however, for what it does not say: the word "rights" appears in the first sentence but not thereafter. That, I think, is the nub of the issue.

As President of the European Metalworkers' Federation, which brings together unions in my industry across Europe, I do, of course, support the endeavour to reach an agreed approach to developing information and consultation agreements which Mr Price, Mr Michael Howard (employment secretary) and your leading article advocate. There is a limited number of agreements along those lines concluded between multinational companies and trade union organisations.

But that is not the end of the story. There is a wide consensus in the Community that, faced with the inevitable structural and industrial changes in the single market, people at work need safeguards to prevent them from becoming casualties of this change. Such safeguards would include the right to be informed or consulted about strategic company decisions.

The right is needed because it is only fair that people should know

level is not a test of standards but of educational laziness" is an insult to all teachers and to thousands of students who, apparently, managed "to abandon the intellectual challenge of breadth" and sailed through their A-level examinations, only to discover that they had no understanding of the world and were unable to make useful contributions to the life of the nation.

Moreover, university experimental science departments certainly work "more than seven months a year".
Yours faithfully,
J. B. FRIDHAM,
University of London,
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,
Department of Biochemistry,
Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey.
May 1.

From Mr J. E. Miller

Sir, Leader writers who refer to English education as British education should broaden their horizons. While not without faults, the Scottish education system comes close in its philosophy and practice to what was proposed in your leader. Various studies have demonstrated that an increasing number of pupils in Scotland are staying on at school after the age of 16.

Yours sincerely,
J. E. MILLER,
Shewington, Rosewell, Midlothian.
May 1.

From Mr Geoffrey P. Simmons

Sir, At my own school, three, sometimes four A levels are supplemented by computing and a foreign language, together with a general studies programme, involving visiting lecturers. This runs counter to the assertion in your leader that pupils "relax in... two or three subjects".

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY P. SIMMONS,
St Lawrence College,
Ramsgate, Kent.
April 30.

From Mr D. A. Harmsworth

Sir, Can television really be expected to solve the poor image of science and technology (report, April 30)? Their failure to recruit students has much less to do with image than with the A-level system. A career in the scientific field demands three or four A levels in mathematics or sciences; this is a restriction which the vast majority of girls and most boys are, at 15, not prepared to accept. Nor should we.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARMSWORTH
(Assistant Head/Director of Studies),
Benenden School,
Cranbrook, Kent.
April 30.

whether or not they are likely to have a job in a few months' time, and what their employer's general prospects are. That is all the more true in companies operating in more than one European country, i.e. multinationals, which naturally do not fit easily into any one system of national law.

The consensus on the need for safeguards for people at work found expression in the Social Charter — which only the United Kingdom did not endorse — which guarantees working people the right information, consultation and participation on major decisions which might affect them. Joint statements between the European TUC and UNICE (the European employers' body) do not establish the presumption that the European social action programme following up the Social Charter, with legislation where necessary, is thereby frozen. On the contrary, the two processes are complementary.

That issue has been dodged by both Mr Howard and Mr Price and by your leading article. That is why Mr Howard's "initiative" on employee involvement is indeed largely a smokescreen: it is offered as a substitute for, rather than alongside, a right which every worker should be able to expect.

Yours faithfully,
BILL JORDAN, President,
Amalgamated Engineering Union,
110 Peckham Road, SE15.
May 2.

Profit and loss

From Mr David Dunbar

Sir, The redevelopment of the Paddington goods yard site (Commercial Property, April 24) threatens a tragic loss of opportunity for the local community. The proposals concentrate on massive offices — to add to all the other empty blocks in London — new stations for a diminishing number of trains, peaceful piazzas and boulevards which lead nowhere, except perhaps to extortionately expensive cafes and restaurants.

When our founder, the late Sir Anthony Fisher, sought counsel from Friedrich Hayek after his war-time anxieties about oppressive government, Hayek advised him rather to engage the attention of the intellectuals — teachers, writers, journalists and other interpreters of academic ideas — whom Keynes had identified as determining the long-run trend in political opinion and practice.

The IEA built up its reputation through academic studies that put scholarship before the "politically possible", as judged by politicians distracted by pressure groups and electioneering, and influenced by bureaucracies that over-emphasise the virtues of "public policy" and

the difficulties of reform.

Certainly in our day we saw ourselves as engaged in a search for truth, not some ephemeral calculation of political expediency. How does your Diarist suppose the IEA could have successfully led the transformation of economic thinking among Labour, Liberal and Conservative leaders if we had confined ourselves to a narrow party loyalty?

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
ARTHUR SELDON,
JOHN B. WOOD
(Founder presidents),
Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street, SW1.
April 29.

Drug war lessons from Hong Kong

From the Commissioner for Narcotics, Hong Kong

Sir, It is sad that *The Times* should again be raising the spectre of decriminalisation of heroin abuse (leading article, "Menace of drug wars", April 18) and a return to the "bad old days" of prescription of the drug by doctors. Has no lesson been learnt from the tragic situation that resulted from this practice in the 1950s and 1960s?

Out of Hong Kong's population of some six million, at least 40,000 are believed to be actively misusing or abusing drugs (heroin in over 90 per cent of the cases). Over the past six years there has been a steady decline in the numbers of new abusers coming to the notice of our Central Registry of Drug Abuse. The problem is worsening, but at a progressively slower rate.

The Hong Kong government has a long-standing policy of encouraging all types of treatment, and over the past two years or so about 14,000 abusers have been undergoing some form of treatment or aftercare every day. Treatment has to be readily available to everyone who needs it, at a price they can afford (i.e. free if necessary), and we are fortunate in having surplus capacity in all publicly-sponsored treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

It should be remembered that the heroin abuser needs several fixes daily to prevent the onset of withdrawal symptoms. The alternative — of a properly administered methadone maintenance programme — largely or wholly eliminates the addict's reliance by providing a once-daily dose of a substance which will prevent the onset of withdrawal for up to 36 hours. This allows the patient to resume a normally active and productive life, without the constant worry about where to obtain his next fix.

The Hong Kong experience has been that such a scheme, widely and conveniently available, has brought about a dramatic reduction in the incidence of "quick cash" crime, and largely emptied our prisons of people who have committed no crime other than falling victim to drug traffickers.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEEKS,
Commissioner for Narcotics,
Queensway Government Offices 23/F,
66 Queensway, Hong Kong.
April 26.

Charity appeals

From Mr David Howard-Allen

Sir, Charities speak of "compassion fatigue". Much of the situation is of their own making. Every day sees the arrival of more, expensively-produced, appeals — I received five this morning — from organisations given my name by others to whom I already subscribe. There is also a growing tendency for organisations to send out more and more supplementary requests to their supporters.

The result is that although one recognises and is sympathetic to the various appeals, a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness is created.

Competition is a good thing in commercial life, but it is different in the world of giving. Pooling by charities of interests and activities is essential if the decline due to over-exposure is to be halted. This would also lead to more funds for those in need by way of reduced administrative costs.

Yours faithfully,
D. HOWARD-ALLEN,
Hedges, South Stoke Road,
Woodcote,
Reading, Berkshire.
May 1.

Doubtful compliment

From Sister Mary Giles

Sir, With Mr Oser "soon to be a mum" (April 30) perhaps the cheque I recently received from a small firm of stamp auctioneers supposes I am soon to become a father. It was made out to "Sister Giles Esq".

Yours truly,
MARY GILES,
281 North Stoke, Amberley,
Arundel, West Sussex.
April 30.

Snookered

From Mr Tom Williams

Sir, I propose "cushy" rather than "cushioned" (May 2) when a snooker player leads his opponent by more points than are left on the table. The player in the situation described is surely "comfortable, easy, pleasant, less tense" (*Oxford Concise Dictionary*). An additional reason is that the word probably derives, like the game, from the Indian subcontinent.

Yours sincerely,
TOM WILLIAMS,
2 The Hawthorns, Holly Lodge,
Lutterworth, Leicestershire.
May 2.

From Mr M. G. de St V. Atkins

Sir, What is wrong with saying simply: "This pot, if successful, would make Jimmy the presumptive winner of the frame"?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
M. G. de St V. ATKINS,
Cross House, Whittington,
Via Carlfort, Lancashire.
May 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Mystiko puts stamina to the test in Derby

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

MYSTIKO is joint favourite at 7-1 with Peking Opera with Ladbrokes for the Derby after Hector Protector's unimpressive victory in Paris yesterday. Reporting his super-charged winner of Saturday's General Accident 2,000 Guineas to be on target for an attempt to give himself, Lady Beaverbrook and Michael Roberts their first victory in the Blue Riband of the turf on June 5, Clive Brittain said: "He's completely relaxed. Mystiko has walked down the yard and trotted back sound. He's licked his manger out."

Although the battling grey is sired by Secret, the three-year-old dam, the Zeddara mare Caracalla, is by no means completely to transmit sufficient stamina for a mile and a half.

In addition, Mystiko's free style of running hardly inspires confidence that Saturday's fast-time winner is ideally equipped for the taxing demands of our most important classic.

However, the confidence in judgement now being shown by the in-form pair, Brittain and Roberts, is awe inspiring. Both these dedicated professionals are hopeful that the indomitable owner will forget Minister Son's unfortunate Epsom experiences in 1988 and allow Mystiko to take his chance.

"This colt doesn't have to go out on his own," emphasised the trainer. "He only did it to beat the field on Saturday. We'd have a great chance at Epsom and what beats us will win. I hope Lady Beaverbrook goes our way because Derbys don't grow on trees."

Roberts, who, despite having won 16 classics in South Africa, was here recording his first British classic victory. His said: "Deep down, you've got to realise that Epsom's a tough mile and a half. But this is a well-balanced horse, who can settle in front and switch off if someone else wants to make it. I think he'll be suited by the race."

Brittain, a wiry and energetic 57-year-old weighing only 9st 12lb, has excelled himself in his unorthodox preparation of Mystiko, which included two days swimming on Tuesday and Wednesday. Being well aware of his reputation as an incurable optimist, the trainer is more than happy

"All eyes will now be turned to Tuesday's Dalham Vase at Chester, which sees the re-appearance of Peking Opera. Michael Stoute will be attempting to repeat the 1981 victory of Shergar in this long-established trial with his ten-year-old Kempton winner."



Brittain: keen to run Mystiko in Derby

Hector Protector fails to sparkle

By RICHARD EVANS

FRANCE's attempt to win the Ever Ready Derby for the first time since 1976 was put on hold yesterday despite victories at Longchamp by two of their fancied contenders.

The performance of Hector Protector, Europe's top-rated two-year-old last season and as low as 8-1 for the Epsom classic yesterday morning, was removed from all the big bookmakers' lists moments after narrowly winning the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas).

His hard-fought victory over Acteur Francis by a fast-diminishing head, combined with the way Francois Boutin's star appeared to be up at the end of the mile event, exposed his stamina limitations.

Only William Pistolet Bleu in the betting for the Derby following his one-and-a-half-length win in the Prix Hocquet, over 12 furlongs, half an hour earlier.

No decision will be taken about the Daniel Wildenstein-owned colt's participation at Epsom until after next week's end of the PRIX Lupin, but the owner's son, Alec, hinted yesterday the French Derby at Chantilly, the Sunday before the Epsom classic, may be the preferred option for Pistolet Bleu.

"The first temptation would be to go to Chantilly, but the horse is probably three to four better going left rather than right-handed," said Wildenstein.

In a six-runner race, which included two pacemakers, Pistolet Bleu found a gap between his chosen lead horse and the rail a furlong-and-a-half out

to have proved his classic point. "This has given me the same satisfaction as winning the Champion Stakes with Pebbles, when they all said she had no chance after apparently working badly on the track after racing," he said.

Not since High Top and Roberto fought out the finish to the 1972 Guineas, with Sun Prince six lengths away third, have the first and second dominated their rivals to the same extent as they did on Saturday.

Talking about the dramatic finish which saw Mystiko beat Lycius by a head, Roberts said: "Going into the dip I asked him to gain momentum, but I didn't go for everything at once. I didn't see Steve until late because I was waiting for Willie Carson. But when I asked Mystiko to dig deeper, he really stuck his old neck out."

Lycius, last season's French-trained Middle Park Stakes winner, launched a storming attack. "We had a great chance of winning two out," said Steve Cauteau. "Lycius was picking Mystiko up nicely, but he drifted towards him and at the finish the winner was holding us."

With the possible exception of the winner, the only significant Derby trial was put up by Generous, who made up a great deal of ground in the closing stages and finished fourth.

Paul Cole, Generous's trainer, said: "I thought some of the jockeys rode like a lot of sheep. They queued up behind Piggott and Michael Roberts won his own private Guineas. There were a wall of horses sitting behind Piggott and we were behind them. We had to pull to the outside to get a run."

We should have finished a good third and have got to go for the Derby. "Marju, the 6-4 favourite who finished eleventh, was yesterday found to be lame. "He's lame on his near hind in the stifle area," said John Dunlop. "Future plans entirely depend on the speed of his recovery. Marju came out of the stalls most awkwardly and was never balanced, so we have to assume that it happened then. It was very disappointing, but I suppose it's some consolation to know that something serious was wrong."

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Mystiko, right with Michael Roberts aboard, getting the better of French challenger Lycius in a tremendous duel for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday

DONCASTER

5.45-6.15 THE LOCH (3-Y-O) 64.500

2.15 Thornton Gate, 2.50 Vague Dancer, 3.20 Savanna, 3.55 Arabian King, 4.25 Rajapur, 4.55 Boomerang, 5.25 Fiddling.

THUNDERER

2.15 Chateau Nord, 2.50 Vague Dancer, 3.20 Laurel Chase, 3.55 Rocket, North, 4.25 Rajapur, 4.55 Boomerang (nap), 5.25 The Shanahan Bay.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.55 Boomerang.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 WISSETON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O) £2,515 (13 runners)

CHATEAU NORD (J) 8-1, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1, 19-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 26-1, 27-1, 28-1, 29-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 33-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1, 37-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-1, 41-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-1, 45-1, 46-1, 47-1, 48-1, 49-1, 50-1, 51-1, 52-1, 53-1, 54-1, 55-1, 56-1, 57-1, 58-1, 59-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-1, 64-1, 65-1, 66-1, 67-1, 68-1, 69-1, 70-1, 71-1, 72-1, 73-1, 74-1, 75-1, 76-1, 77-1, 78-1, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1, 82-1, 83-1, 84-1, 85-1, 86-1, 87-1, 88-1, 89-1, 90-1, 91-1, 92-1, 93-1, 94-1, 95-1, 96-1, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1, 100-1, 101-1, 102-1, 103-1, 104-1, 105-1, 106-1, 107-1, 108-1, 109-1, 110-1, 111-1, 112-1, 113-1, 114-1, 115-1, 116-1, 117-1, 118-1, 119-1, 120-1, 121-1, 122-1, 123-1, 124-1, 125-1, 126-1, 127-1, 128-1, 129-1, 130-1, 131-1, 132-1, 133-1, 134-1, 135-1, 136-1, 137-1, 138-1, 139-1, 140-1, 141-1, 142-1, 143-1, 144-1, 145-1, 146-1, 147-1, 148-1, 149-1, 150-1, 151-1, 152-1, 153-1, 154-1, 155-1, 156-1, 157-1, 158-1, 159-1, 160-1, 161-1, 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1017-1, 1018-1, 1019-1, 1020-1, 1021-1, 1022-1, 1023-1, 1024-1, 1025-1, 1026-1, 1027-1, 1028-1, 1029-1, 1030-1, 1031-1, 1032-1, 1033-1, 1034-1, 1035-1, 1036-1, 1037-1, 1038-1, 1039-1, 1040-1, 1041-1, 1042-1, 1043-1, 1044-1, 1045-1, 1046-1, 1047-1, 1048-1, 1049-1, 1050-1, 1051-1, 1052-1, 1053-1, 1054-1, 1055-1, 1056-1, 1057-1, 1058-1, 1059-1, 1060-1, 1061-1, 1062-1, 1063-1, 1064-1, 1065-1, 1066-1, 1067-1, 1068-1, 1069-1, 1070-1, 1071-1, 1072-1, 1073-1, 1074-1, 1075-1, 1076-1, 1077-1, 1078-1, 1079-1, 1080-1, 1081-1, 1082-1, 1083-1, 1084-1, 1085-1, 1086-1, 1087-1, 1088-1, 1089-1, 1090-1, 1091-1, 1092-1, 1093-1, 1094-1, 1095-1, 1096-1, 1097-1, 1098-1, 1099-1, 1100-1, 1101-1, 1102-1, 1103-1, 1104-1, 1105-1, 1106-1, 1107-1, 1108-1, 1109-1, 1110-1, 1111-1, 1112-1, 1113-1, 1114-1, 1115-1, 1116-1, 1117-1, 1118-1

Piggott and St Ninian for encore

LESTER Piggott has already won the Newbury Spring Cup this season for Lady Murless, riding her home-bred five-year-old St Ninian.

Now the same combination appears to have a fine chance of also capturing the valuable Jubilee Handicap at Kempton Park today, and they are expected to do so even though St Ninian is burdened with a 5lb penalty and meeting horses who will be fitter this time.

However, St Ninian totally dominated the closing stages of the Newbury race, which was a clear indication that he

has improved since last year.

Significantly, the form of his race got a timely boost on Saturday when the third horse, State Dancer, won the Thirk Hunt Cup.

Undeterred by St Ninian's prowess, the connections of Roseate Lodge, Live Action, Absoul, Alkimo, Alfhafrah and Lucky Guest have all decided to reoppose him. At Newbury, they finished second, fourth, fifth, seventh, fourth and eighth respectively.

Of that sextet, I am most afraid of Live Action and Absoul. Neither had a good



MICHAEL PHILLIPS

run at Newbury, Absoul particularly so.

Following Ummivavie's easily-gained victory at Ascot last Wednesday, Walter Swinburn would appear to have an excellent chance of winning the Syon Park Maiden Fillies Stakes wearing the royal colours on Why Trick.

There was much to like about the way this daughter of the American stallion Clever Trick and the Queen's mare

Highclere performed at Newbury last time out when she was runner-up to Ummivavie.

Michael Roberts, his confidence now sky high after winning the 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, should lead the Skyark Fillies Graduation Stakes on the recent Brighton winner Come On My Girl.

Mellor, who won the race of his life to finish second in last year's Cambridgeshire, begins a fresh season by contesting the May Day Holiday Handicap at Doncaster. However, I prefer Vogue dancer, whose form im-

proved with a victory at Nottingham last week after his distance was increased to today's trip.

Following that promising third behind Walsathan and Saturday's Newmarket winner Le Corsaire, Boomerang should now lead the Carr Hill Maiden Stakes for Henry Cecil, who will be disappointed if Fly to the Moon (2.45) and Chief Orchestral (4.15) fail to win at Warwick.

Over the jumps at Haydock, I give Fragrant Dawn a sporting chance of winning the valuable Swinton Insurance Trophy.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.10 Come On My Girl.	2.10 Chianina.	3.40 ST NINIAN (asp).
2.40 Why Trick.	2.40 Why Trick.	5.10 Turbulent River.
3.10 Possessive Dancer.	3.10 Why Trick.	
3.40 ST NINIAN (asp).	3.40 Why Trick.	
4.10 Medaille D'Or.	4.10 Medaille D'Or.	
4.40 Cxi.	4.40 Sao Marque.	
5.10 Turbulent River.	5.10 Turbulent River.	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.10 Turbulent River. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 EL DOMINIO.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-8F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.10 SKYLARK FILLIES GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O; £3,471; 6f) (10 runners)

101 (10)	88-91	COME ON MY GIRL 14 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	M Roberts 9-5
102 (7)	82-10	CORN FUTURE 178 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	J Field 9-5
103 (6)	515-6	FAY'S SONG 9 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
104 (5)	6	CHIANINA 327 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	B Raymond 9-5
105 (4)	0	DOCK AND 16 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
106 (3)	0	MADONNETTA 195 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
107 (2)	0	NONE GO BY 12 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
108 (1)	0	PENTHOUSE 12 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
109 (0)	0	SAFARI 198 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5
110 (0)	0	SURE VICTORY 12 (F) (D) (K) (Burgess) R. Bosc 9-5	W Carson 9-5

BETTING: 7.2 Madonnetta, 4.1 Come On My Girl, 11.2 Fay's Song, 5.1 Corn Future, 10.1 Chianina, 12.1 Penthouse, 16.1 Sure Victory, 10.1 None Go By.

1990: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1989: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1988: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1987: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1986: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1985: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1984: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1983: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1982: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1981: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1980: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1979: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1978: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1977: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1976: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1975: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1974: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1973: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1972: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1971: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1970: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1969: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1968: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1967: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1966: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1965: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1964: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1963: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1962: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1961: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1960: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1959: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1958: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1957: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1956: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1955: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1954: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1953: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1952: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1951: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1950: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1949: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1948: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1947: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1946: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1945: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1944: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1943: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1942: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1941: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1940: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1939: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1938: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1937: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1936: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1935: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1934: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1933: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1932: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1931: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1930: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1929: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1928: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1927: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1926: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1925: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1924: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1923: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1922: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1921: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1920: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1919: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1918: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1917: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1916: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1915: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1914: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1913: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1912: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1911: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1910: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1909: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1908: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1907: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1906: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1905: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1904: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1903: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1902: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1901: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1900: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1899: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1898: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1897: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1896: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1895: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1894: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1893: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1892: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1891: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1890: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1889: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1888: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1887: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

1886: COME ON MY GIRL 9-5; D. Dock and 16-1; None Go By 10-1.

103 (12) 0-432 GOOD TIMES 74 (D.F.F.) (Mrs D. Robinson) B. Hall 9-100 B West 4

Reopened number. Draw in brackets. 5-figure latest race. Going on which horse has won (P - firm, good to firm, hard, G - good, D - doubtful, H - heavy, S - soft, L - light, V - very, W - weak, X - extra, Y - young, Z - zero, 0 - out, 1 - one, 2 - two, 3 - three, 4 - four, 5 - five, 6 - six, 7 - seven, 8 - eight, 9 - nine, 10 - ten, 11 - eleven, 12 - twelve, 13 - thirteen, 14 - fourteen, 15 - fifteen, 16 - sixteen, 17 - seventeen, 18 - eighteen, 19 - nineteen, 20 - twenty, 21 - twenty-one, 22 - twenty-two, 23 - twenty-three, 24 - twenty-four, 25 - twenty-five, 26 - twenty-six, 27 - twenty-seven, 28 - twenty-eight, 29 - twenty-nine, 30 - thirty, 31 - thirty-one, 32 - thirty-two, 33 - thirty-three, 34 - thirty-four, 35 - thirty-five, 36 - thirty-six, 37 - thirty-seven, 38 - thirty-eight, 39 - thirty-nine, 40 - forty, 41 - forty-one, 42 - forty-two, 43 - forty-three, 44 - forty-four, 45 - forty-five, 46 - forty-six, 47 - forty-seven, 48 - forty-eight, 49 - forty-nine, 50 - fifty, 51 - fifty-one, 52 - fifty-two, 53 - fifty-three, 54 - fifty-four, 55 - fifty-five, 56 - fifty-six, 57 - fifty-seven, 58 - fifty-eight, 59 - fifty-nine, 60 - sixty, 61 - sixty-one, 62 - sixty-two, 63 - sixty-three, 64 - sixty-four, 65 - sixty-five, 66 - sixty-six, 67 - sixty-seven, 68 - sixty-eight, 69 - sixty-nine, 70 - seventy, 71 - seventy-one, 72 - seventy-two, 73 - seventy-three, 74 - seventy-four, 75 - seventy-five, 76 - seventy-six, 77 - seventy-seven, 78 - seventy-eight, 79 - seventy-nine, 80 - eighty, 81 - eighty-one, 82 - eighty-two, 83 - eighty-three, 84 - eighty-four, 85 - eighty-five, 86 - eighty-six, 87 - eighty-seven, 88 - eighty-eight, 89 - eighty-nine, 90 - ninety, 91 - ninety-one, 92 - ninety-two, 93 - ninety-three, 94 - ninety-four, 95 - ninety-five, 96 - ninety-six, 97 - ninety-seven, 98 - ninety-eight, 99 - ninety-nine, 100 - one hundred, 101 - one hundred and one, 102 - one hundred and two, 103 - one hundred and three, 104 - one hundred and four, 105 - one hundred and five, 106 - one hundred and six, 107 - one hundred and seven, 108 - one hundred and eight, 109 - one hundred and nine, 110 - one hundred and ten, 111 - one hundred and eleven, 112 - one hundred and twelve, 113 - one hundred and thirteen, 114 - one hundred and fourteen, 115 - one hundred and fifteen, 116 - one hundred and sixteen, 117 - one hundred and seventeen, 118 - one hundred and eighteen, 119 - one hundred and nineteen, 120 - one hundred and twenty, 121 - one hundred and twenty-one, 122 - one hundred and twenty-two, 123 - one hundred and twenty-three, 124 - one hundred and twenty-four, 125 - one hundred and twenty-five, 126 - one hundred and twenty-six, 127 - one hundred and twenty-seven, 128 - one hundred and twenty-eight, 129 - one hundred and twenty-nine, 130 - one hundred and thirty, 131 - one hundred and thirty-one, 132 - one hundred and thirty-two, 133 - one hundred and thirty-three, 134 - one hundred and thirty-four, 135 - one hundred and thirty-five, 136 - one hundred and thirty-six, 137 - one hundred and thirty-seven, 138 - one hundred and thirty-eight, 139 - one hundred and thirty-nine, 140 - one hundred and forty, 141 - one hundred and forty-one, 142 - one hundred and forty-two, 143 - one hundred and forty-three, 144 - one hundred and forty-four, 145 - one hundred and forty-five, 146 - one hundred and forty-six, 147 - one hundred and forty-seven, 148 - one hundred and forty-eight, 149 - one hundred and forty-nine, 150 - one hundred and fifty, 151 - one hundred and fifty-one, 152 - one hundred and fifty-two, 153 - one hundred and fifty-three, 154 - one hundred and fifty-four, 155 - one hundred and fifty-five, 156 - one hundred and fifty-six, 157 - one hundred and fifty-seven, 158 - one hundred and fifty-eight, 159 - one hundred and fifty-nine, 160 - one hundred and sixty, 161 - one hundred and sixty-one, 162 - one hundred and sixty-two, 163 - one hundred and sixty-three, 164 - one hundred and sixty-four, 165 - one hundred and sixty-five, 166 - one hundred and sixty-six, 167 - one hundred and sixty-seven, 168 - one hundred and sixty-eight, 169 - one hundred and sixty-nine, 170 - one hundred and seventy, 171 - one hundred and seventy-one, 172 - one hundred and seventy-two, 173 - one hundred and seventy-three, 174 - one hundred and seventy-four, 175 - one hundred and seventy-five, 176 - one hundred and seventy-six, 177 - one hundred and seventy-seven, 178 - one hundred and seventy-eight, 179 - one hundred and seventy-nine, 180 - one hundred and eighty, 181 - one hundred and eighty-one, 182 - one hundred and eighty-two, 183 - one hundred and eighty-three, 184 - one hundred and eighty-four, 185 - one hundred and eighty-five, 186 - one hundred and eighty-six, 187 - one hundred and eighty-seven, 188 - one hundred and eighty-eight, 189 - one hundred and eighty-nine, 190 - one hundred and ninety, 191 - one hundred and ninety-one, 192 - one hundred and ninety-two, 193 - one hundred and ninety-three, 194 - one hundred and ninety-four, 195 - one hundred and ninety-five, 196 - one hundred and ninety-six, 197 - one hundred and ninety-seven, 198 - one hundred and ninety-eight, 199 - one hundred and ninety-nine, 200 - two hundred, 201 - two hundred and one, 202 - two hundred and two, 203 - two hundred and three, 204 - two hundred and four, 205 - two hundred and five, 206 - two hundred and six, 207 - two hundred and seven, 208 - two hundred and eight, 209 - two hundred and nine, 210 - two hundred and ten, 211 - two hundred and eleven, 212 - two hundred and twelve, 213 - two hundred and thirteen, 214 - two hundred and fourteen, 215 - two hundred and fifteen, 216 - two hundred and sixteen, 217 - two hundred and seventeen, 218 - two hundred and eighteen, 219 - two hundred and nineteen, 220 - two hundred and twenty, 221 - two hundred and twenty-one, 222 - two hundred and twenty-two, 223 - two hundred and twenty-three, 224 - two hundred and twenty-four, 225 - two hundred and twenty-five, 226 - two hundred and twenty-six, 227 - two hundred and twenty-seven, 228 - two hundred and twenty-eight, 229

FOOTBALL

Atkinson profits from sticking to his principles

RON Atkinson has used the disappointment of relegation last spring as a springboard for a season of celebration at Sheffield Wednesday. A 2-1 win against Millwall at Hillsborough on Saturday, left his team requiring victory at Port Vale tonight to secure automatic promotion.

The Rumbelows Cup holders are sure to seduce first division spectators with their swashbuckling commitment to a purist philosophy. But can the success be sustained?

Those vulnerabilities that prompted Wednesday's demotion remain. King, the left back, seems likely to struggle against the best forwards, who may exploit a susceptibility to pace in central defence.

Similarly, in the absence of a midfield "enforcer", the silky skills of Sheridan will be overshadowed, while McCarthy's domination of Williams betrayed a fragility in attack.

Presumably, Atkinson will remedy such deficiencies by bombarding his cheque book, snabbing Nilsson, Palmer, Jakes, Sheridan, and Hunt, to employ their abilities to maximum effect.

That talent was too much for Millwall. Bruce Rieck's team played an attractive supporting role, but ultimately had no answer to a first-half header and second-half shot from Hunt.

He has scored 28 goals this season, nine fewer than Birmingham, who collected his

By LOUISE TAYLOR

37th by heading home Goodwin's cross in the final minute. It crowned an accomplished performance from Millwall's outstanding individual, who, had Goodwin released his passes earlier, could have claimed three.

Virtually assured a place in the top seven, Millwall are probably the best bet to win the play-offs. Should they fail, Birmingham will surely be sold, and Rieck left struggling to replace him.

If they secure promotion, the Londoners should entertain, but to survive, they will have to spend. Waddock works hard in the midfield, but could be found wanting at a higher level, and the £700,000 made on the sale of Carter to Liverpool would be reinvested in a young Terry Butcher-type.

The original Harlock, now with Rangers, would relish a match against a combative Notts County team who confirmed their involvement in the play-offs thanks to a 2-0 win at home to already promoted Oldham Athletic.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C Turner, R Nilsson, P King, O Palmer, S Mackenzie (capt), C Madden, V Anderson, J Hartson, J Sheridan, D Day, J Williams, M Worthington, J McCarthy, B Palmer, K Stevens, G Waddock, D Thompson, M McCarthy, P Sheehan, J Goodwin, E Whittingham, P Kay, L Bailey (sub: A Pile). Referee: K Lipton.

Middlesbrough in sight of play-offs

Middlesbrough..... 2
Brighton..... 0

By DENNIS SIGBY

A VICTORY more comprehensive than a two-goal advantage might suggest, left Middlesbrough needing just one point from their two remaining fixtures this week to ensure a place in the play-offs.

Allowing for difficult assignments at Oldham Athletic, already promoted, tomorrow and at Barnsley, still hoping for a play-off place themselves, on Saturday, Colin Todd, the Middlesbrough manager, set the tone when he said: "Let's not get carried away."

For Barry Lloyd, the Brighton manager, the pressure is even more acute. If Barnsley beat Newcastle United at Oakwell tomorrow, Brighton will drop out of the play-off places and all will rest on the final games of the season on Saturday, when Brighton entertain Ipswich Town. Their goal difference, minus seven, does not inspire confidence.

On the evidence produced at Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough seem more suited for a Wembley place than Brighton. The corner tally was ten-one in their favour in the first half and, although they had a couple of uncomfortable moments,

Todd's experiment with Stuart Ripley in a more central attacking role paid dividends.

Ripley tormented Brighton. After 64 minutes, his corner kick, Middlesbrough's twelfth of the game, was headed in so powerfully by Simon Coleman for his first goal of the season that neither Dean Wilkins on the goal line nor Perry Digweed could stop its progress. Eleven minutes later, Ripley capitalised on a poor back-pass by John Crumplin and, although Digweed got a hand to the ball as they clashed, he managed to score.

A knee injury to Alan Kernaghan after 36 minutes failed to disrupt Middlesbrough. Some of their players and the majority of the 18,000 crowd were incensed by the tackle that led to the injury. Putney was cautioned for an over zealous protest and Small, the culprit, was cautioned afterwards every time he touched the ball.

As the teams regrouped after the interval, a loudspeaker announcement said that the referee and the police wanted attention drawn to the fact that chanting was an offence.

MIDDLESBROUGH: A Dible, C Cooper, J Phillips, A Kernaghan (capt), R Mackenzie, S Coleman, T Purney, B Stevens, M Proctor, I Shepherd, G Smith, M Palmer, S Todd, BRIGHTON: P Digweed, J Crumplin, S Girdling, J Coleman, G Wilkins, P Sheehan, G Chapman, G Wilson, P Sheehan, M Palmer, J Byrne (capt), G Nelson, M Small, M Stuart, C Walker. Referee: P Jones.

Promoted Southend break new ground

SOUTHEND United became the first team to gain promotion from the third division this season when they beat Bury 1-0 at Gigg Lane on Saturday. It is the first time since the club was founded in 1906, that Southend have reached the second division.

Promotion was no less than they deserved, having been among the leaders for most of the season despite having been promoted from the fourth division only the previous year.

Playing a team with play-off aspirations, Southend were down to ten men after 44 minutes, when Scully was sent off for a foul on Lee. Yet, they carried the game to their opponents and were rewarded eight minutes from time when Benjamin scored from Butler's pass.

The result did not quite satisfy David Webb, their manager. "The job is 85 per cent done," he said, "I want to win the championship. I feel the players deserve it having led the division night on every week."

He said he would be trying to add some experience to his squad. "When we needed to, we could shift players around and you can get away with that in the third and fourth divisions. I'm not sure you can in the second."

Cambridge United surrendered a 2-0 lead against the bottom club, Rotherham

By KEITH BLACKMORE

United, and lost 3-2, but they, Grimsby Town and Bolton Wanderers, are certain of play-off places, at least, as are Tranmere Rovers, who beat Brentford 2-0 at Griffin Park.

That result left Brentford chasing another point to be sure of their place in the play-offs, where their semi-final opponents would probably be Tranmere. If so, they will hope to improve on their performance on Saturday, when they had the best of the play, with Keith Jones having an outstanding game in midfield, but never recovered from conceding two early goals.

Nothing was resolved in the fourth division, Darlington missing the chance to confirm promotion by losing to Scunthorpe United. Six teams can still entertain thoughts of automatic promotion.

BRIGHTFORD: G Barwell, S Radcliffe, J Shaw, K Miller, T Evans, C Goodwin (capt), N Bailey, K Jones, N Peters, D Piddow, S Gillett, M Palmer, W Woodcock. Referee: W Pootock.

TRANSMERE: Rovers: E Nixon, D Higgins, S Murrell, N McInnes, M Higgins, S Vickers, J Wardley (capt), C Mullen, K Jones, S Steel, S Cooper (capt), D Murrell, A Thomas. Referee: T Simpson.

A grandstand finish to Scottish League

THE scene was set for a dramatic and highly charged finale to the Scottish season, as the champions, Rangers, lost 3-0 to Motherwell while Aberdeen, the contenders, won 1-1 at home to St Johnstone.

For the first time since the combination of results means that when Aberdeen travel to Inverness, the season will end in a final game of the season they need only draw to take the title.

Aberdeen lead the premier division for the first time since October because, although both teams have identical goal difference totals, Aberdeen have scored two more than Rangers.

On Saturday, though, they went behind to a Mackay goal for St Johnstone before reviving with goals by Van der Ark and Booth to secure their victory and the vital points.

Rangers, similarly, fell behind at Fir Park to Philibean's goal, scored midway through the first half for Motherwell. However, they were offered their chance to draw level with a penalty kick when Huisman was brought down by Griffin. Walters, though, sent his attempt over the bar, and, as Rangers desperately strove for another opportunity, they were twice caught out in defence and in both cases Arnot scored after clear runs at Woods.

Harlequins snatch hard-earned victory in rugby union's cup final after extra time

Defiant Northampton denied glory

Harlequins..... 25
Northampton..... 13

(at; score at 80 min 13-13)
By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHAMPTON received a message from Wayne Sheffield, their erstwhile No. 8, as they prepared for the Pilkington Cup final on Saturday. "Loser," the New Zealander told his colleagues, "I can't win; winners say 'give me the chance'." And how nearly Northampton took them at Twickenham.

Against the odds of experience, representative talent and possession, they led with only five minutes remaining before Andrew Harriman scored the try that ensured extra time in a cup final (the first was Gloucester v Moseley in 1982). At that stage of an exciting but flawed game, Harlequins finally lived up to their pedigree and scored the two tries which carried them to their second cup success, by three goals, a try and a penalty goal to a try and three penalties.

That the verdict should have been so long delayed was a tribute to Northampton's brave defence, particularly in the middle, and the limitations of Harlequins' offensive strategy, the one side lacked the basic platform to do much more than tackle, the other should have constructed more than it did - and therein lay the frustration of this twentieth knockout final.

Peter Winterbottom, the Harlequins captain, who is undecided whether to stand again next season, spoke of moving the ball wide and knowing the breaks would come. But if the opposition reads events and commits itself as well as Northampton did, greater variety is required, that has been the frustration of England's international side, but like the national side of whom five were in their ranks, Harlequins came through somewhat breathlessly on the tape.

Their weight of possession is indicated by the number of



The final image: Halliday, of Harlequins, has the line, and Pilkington Cup, within reach as he eludes Rodher to score in extra time yesterday

times David Pears received the ball 43, as against John Steele's 14 (the ratio of lineout ball in Harlequins' favour was very similar). Given that and their territorial advantage, Harlequins nonetheless came within a whisker of conceding everything by battering away at a central defence in which Moss and Hunter, reinforced by Pask, made a massive contribution.

Northampton's main weapon was their four-square scrum. "We wanted to secure first-phase ball and move their back three around, send in our chasers, knock them down and play behind them," Paul Bryant, the coach, said. The pack gave Steele some chance

to do that, as well as disrupting the Harlequins tight five and reducing the time and space in which Glenister and Pears could operate. Their try was a direct result of applied pressure on the back three defenders, when Harriman and Davis got in a tangle, Packman kicked through and Moss arrived for the score.

At that stage, Harlequins became seriously concerned. On a sunny but blustery afternoon, before a crowd of 53,000, most of whom seemed to be supporting Northampton - they dominated the first half against the breeze, played some attractive rugby but ultimately ineffective

interval. Pears, who missed four of five penalty attempts and two dropped goals, could not give them the cushion they wanted and although he launched the geyser that led to Langhorn's invaluable try, and converted it, Harlequins could not use their pace to best effect.

Moss reclaimed the lead for Northampton, and Steele improved it with his third penalty. Harlequins required more direct methods and Glenister was unlucky not to be awarded a try from a rolling maul, Carling carried the defenders with him before releasing Harriman. Moments earlier, Davis had skipped

away from Packman on the left, now his colleague eluded Thorneycroft to sustain his record of scoring in every cup round in which he has played this season.

The county final had been decided in extra time a fortnight earlier and Harlequins themselves endured the experience in the cup semi-final with Nottingham. Within eight minutes, the cup had slipped inextricably from Northampton: Davis charged down Packman's kick to establish the position from which Halliday, in his record-equaling sixth cup final (five for Bath), scored a try not dissimilar to one he scored in the 1987 final.

Then Langhorn turned up unexpectedly on the wing and a tired defence lost track of Thresher, who sent Glenister over for the coup de grace. Even the heavens wept for Northampton at that stage. But they had done themselves proud.

SCORES: Harlequins: Try: Langhorn, Harriman, Halliday, Glenister. Conversions: Pears (3), Penalty goals: Pears. Northampton: Try: Moss. Penalty goals: Steele (3).

HARLEQUINS: S Thresher; A Harriman, W Carling, S Halliday, E Davis, D Pears, R Glenister, J Leonard, B Moore, A Mullins, M Skinner, T Colker, P Ackford, P Winterbottom, R Langhorn.

NORTHAMPTON: J Hunter, F Packman (capt), B Ward, J Thorne, P Moss, H Thorneycroft, J Steele, R Thresher, D Ebbings, G Baldwin, J Owen, G Pask, P Aston, C Hall, J Endergon, P Pask, T Rodher. Referee: E Morrison (Epsom).

Llanelli flair triumphs over the dogged drive

Llanelli..... 24
Pontypool..... 9

By GERALD DAVIES

LLANELLI, true to their tradition of extravagant gestures, set their victory seal on this match during two brief but spectacular periods in the second half when individual speed and brilliance in open play saw them score four wonderful tries.

In the 20 minutes that separated the first brace of tries from the second, Pontypool set out doggedly in their accustomed forward-driving fashion to retrieve what appeared a lost cause. When only five points drifted, Pary having recovered some of the leeway with a

penalty goal, they looked set to do so. They drove and pushed into the red shirts, but Llanelli's defence held.

Then Llanelli from these deep, treacherous positions rose majestically to the stern challenge and with two swift, deadly strokes scored two more tries, each more thrilling than the last and more brilliant. No winning team had scored five tries in a final and, if Llanelli's first was a bit of a scramble and a push at the lineout, they do not come any more exciting than the other four, nor with more daring than the last two.

While not reaching the grand heights of previous years, there were enough exhilarating moments to provide a thoroughly absorbing match and so give an optimistic conclusion to the Welsh season.

The day did not belong entirely to Wales, though, for the day's two outstanding players were English: Moon won the man of the match award and Copey ruled the lineout throughout.

It was that rarity in Welsh rugby, a good final, which gave the Scarlets their seventh victory since they first won in 1973, by the somewhat flattering margin of two goals and three tries to a goal and a penalty goal.

Pontypool had the greater share territorially, but their control and efficiency at forward, upon which they rely so much, deserted them as it has done on other important occasions in the past. Even Oswald and Huish, who have been towers of strength all season, failed to exert their customary influence. Jenkins, the hooker,

and Davies, the flanker, were their best players.

The first half had seen Lewis charge over from the lineout and almost on the half-time whistle Pontypool took the lead. After all their pressure they finally succeeded in fashioning a brilliant try for Davies which Pary converted. No one could disagree at that stage that they deserved it.

In the sixth minute after the interval Moon dummied, delayed, then tore away from an untidy scrum near the half-way line to send Evans speeding away for his try. Immediately from the poor kick-off, which gave Llanelli a midfield scrum, Williams picked up and ran through a gap to send Stephens racing in for his score which he also converted.

Pontypool were not done. For their driving efforts Pary, who might have given his side a better chance had he kicked some goals earlier, got a penalty goal which put them only a score away.

Then on the half-hour Llanelli, on the retreat at a disorganised scrum near their own line, won the heel against the head, the second of the afternoon for Fox. Williams again picked up and linked with the outstanding Lewis who set Simon Davies free on his 22-metre line. The centre ran all the way for a spectacular try.

Still Pontypool came back and four minutes later Hanson made a surging break down the middle.

At the tackle, the ball went loose. Bowling picked up and

transferred to Jones near his own 22-metre line. The young full back looked up, sized up the position and ran. And like Hancock's try of distant memory those many years ago at Twickenham against Scotland, on the head, back near the touchline, veering in and out to beat the last man and so on triumphantly for the score.

Stephens converted both tries.

SCORES: Llanelli: Try: Lewis, I Evans, Stephens, S Davies, J Jones. Conversions: Stephens (3), Pontypool: Try: Copey. Conversions: Pary, Penalty goal: Pary. LLANELLI: J Jones, I Evans, S Davies, S Jones, S Baldwin, C Stephens, R Moon, R Evans, D Fox, L Delaney, E Lewis, P Davies, A Copey, J Jones, J Williams.

PONTYPOOL: Pary, S Evans, S Jones, S Baldwin, S Hanson, D Phillips, C Jones, A Dible, G Jones, J Mullins, C Jones, N Jones, S Goodwin, V Davies, C Jones. Referee: D Bevan (Clydach).

POINT-TO-POINT

Annie Garda springs a 25-1 surprise in Times qualifier

By BRIAN BEEL

SHEILA Dun's Annie Garda was the 25-1 surprise winner of The Times Championship qualifier at Sandown on Saturday.

Candy Cone, who also had pulled up in his two races, landed a gamble in the qualifier for this year's Land Rover event, being backed from 10-1 to 9-1.

Flying Ace, aged 15, won his sixteenth point-to-point for Doon Calder in the ladies open, but his full brother Flying Express, younger by a year, was a sharp turn and flying in the ladies open when looking to be going the best.

The course was constructed so that all fences were jumped after a sharp turn and a flying Express, in the lead, failed to negotiate a stone dyke near the finish leaving Ewen Cameron on the 15-year-old Mystic Merlin to win for the second time in three years.

In The Times qualifier at

Results from Saturday's eight meetings

ALBRIGHTON (Western Park): Hunt: 1, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 2, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 3, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 4, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 5, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 6, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 7, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 8, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 9, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 10, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 11, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 12, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 13, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 14, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 15, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 16, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 17, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 18, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 19, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 20, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 21, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 22, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 23, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 24, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 25, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 26, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 27, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 28, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 29, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 30, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 31, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 32, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 33, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 34, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 35, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 36, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 37, Can Fly (Miles) 4, 10; 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Court of Appeal

Law Report May 6 1991

Queen's Bench Division

Limiting range and scope of liability for nervous shock

Alcock and Others v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police

Before Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Nolan (Judgment May 3)

A plaintiff who was not a parent or a spouse of a victim of the Hillsborough disaster could not bring a claim against the South Yorkshire Police for damages for nervous shock. Even the claims of those parents and spouses who suffered nervous shock as a result of watching the disaster on television would fail the test of proximity.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing the appeals of six plaintiffs unsuccessful at first instance, namely, Robert Alcock, Peter Coldcutt, Catherine Jones, Joseph Kitch, John O'Dell and Alexandra Penk and allowing the cross-appeal of the defendant, Peter Wright, Chief Constable of the South Yorkshire Police, against nine of the ten successful plaintiffs, namely, Brian Harrison, Harold Copoc, Agnes Copoc, Maureen Mulvaney, Karen Hankin, Brenda Hennessy, Denise Hough, Stephen Jones and Robert Sparritt.

The appeal arose from the

decision of Mr Justice Hadden dated July 31, 1990 ([1991] 2 WLR 814) whereby he dismissed the claims of the six unsuccessful plaintiffs and gave judgment in favour of the ten successful plaintiffs. Leave to appeal was granted.

Mr Bennet Hyman, QC and Mr Timothy R. A. King, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr William Woodward, QC and Mr Patrick Limb for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that the appeal concerned 15 cases in which the plaintiffs claimed to be entitled to damages for nervous shock alleged to have been caused by negligence on the part of the South Yorkshire Police leading to the disaster at the Hillsborough Football Stadium on April 15, 1989.

The issue before the judge and the present court was a narrow one, whether any and which of the plaintiffs were entitled in law to recover damages should they hereafter prove that they suffered psychiatric illness from the facts set up. All questions of causation remained open.

The law as to liability for damages for nervous shock had developed over about a century from a rejection of any such claim through a series of stages

until it came to be considered by the House of Lords in *McLoughlin v O'Brian* ([1983] AC 410).

Of the nine successful plaintiffs only one was at the scene of the catastrophe but he was not within the category of those then recognised as being entitled to claim for nervous shock, nor did he witness the death of his brother or subsequently identify their bodies.

Of the remainder of those successful none was at or near the scene but all were put in fear by what they saw on television many miles from the scene. Only four were within the categories then recognised as being entitled to claim and only two identified the bodies of the victims. One of these was within the recognised categories but had been told of death prior to identification, the other was not within such categories.

Of the six unsuccessful plaintiffs, only two were at the scene, none was in the recognised categories, only one identified the victim's body. It was thus clear that for any of the plaintiffs to succeed involved an extension of the law as it stood in 1983.

Although the decision in *McLoughlin* was unanimous

there were considerable differences in approach and substance between their Lordships. Not only had those differences not been resolved by later decisions of the Court of Appeal and courts of first instance but to some extent they had led to a situation where it was of vital importance that the law on the subject should again be reviewed by their Lordships' House.

The first issue was whether anyone who was not either within the already recognised categories of parent or spouse of a victim or potential victim or a rescuer could bring a claim.

Judges recognised that the shock suffered by the sight of horrific events might in some cases lead to psychiatric injury and the courts were presently to assume reasonable foreseeability in the case of the recognised categories but his Lordship saw no justification for going further and no consensus of informed judicial opinion which could justify so doing.

No doubt some persons might suffer each injury but ought a wrongdoer reasonably to contemplate such persons as being likely to be among those affected by his act or omission? The vast majority of ordinary

persons did not suffer psychiatric illness from that sort of shock. Ought then a defendant reasonably to contemplate that there would or might be among those so closely and directly affected by his act or omission some persons in other recognised categories or rescuers who were likely to suffer such injury. His Lordship did not think so.

The next major question was whether the effect of watching television makes away from the catastrophe could be regarded as satisfying the test of proximity.

His Lordship was unable to consider the television viewer as so closely and directly connected with the police negligence in the present cases that the defendant ought to have had them in mind. Their connection was established by the intervention of a third party and was accompanied by a commentary the terms of which were devised by a third party.

In the case of all the plaintiffs it had to be borne in mind that it had to be borne in mind that except in the identification cases the plaintiffs' cases were based solely on the fear, anxiety and worry, engendered by watching television and for the possible fate of someone held high in their affections together with receipt of information about the

fact of such a person.

Assuming that each of them did suffer psychiatric illness from what they saw or were told or a combination of both, his Lordship did not consider that the defendant was in breach of any duty of care towards them for his Lordship did not consider that such a duty existed towards any of them.

To put upon the defendant liability not merely to parents and spouses but to an indeterminate class beyond them for an indeterminate amount would be unfair and it would be equally unfair to make the defendant liable even to parents and spouses who, far removed from the incident in question, happened to watch and hear either a contemporaneous broadcast of selective scenes or a later recorded news item.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Nolan delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners, Liverpool for Ford & Warrington, Liverpool, MacKrell & Thomas, Liverpool, Lees Lloyd Whitley, Liverpool, Morcroft Dawson & Garments, Liverpool, Kennedy Cribble & Bell, Crosby and Mace & Jones, Huxton; Hammond Suddards, Bradford.

Excuse for late VAT payment

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Steptoe

Before Mr Justice Kennedy (Judgment May 1)

Financial difficulties brought about by late payment or failure to pay on the part of contractors could amount to a reasonable excuse for late payment of a quarterly value-added tax payment thereby relieving the taxpayer from the penalty payments otherwise levied.

Mr Justice Kennedy so held in the Queen's Bench Division on May 1 when dismissing the appeal of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against the decision of Judge Meek, QC, chairman of a VAT Tribunal, that the respondent, Mr John Steptoe, need not pay a 30 per cent surcharge for late payment of VAT.

Mr Steptoe was an electrical contractor 95 per cent of whose work was for the Rushmore Borough Council. The council had in the period in question become very slow payers and had thereby placed him in diffi-

culties paying VAT on invoices which had not been settled.

He was assessed for payment of a 30 per cent surcharge on his VAT due for the quarters of November 1987, February, May and November, 1988.

The commissioners asserted that under section 33 of the Finance Act 1985 insufficiency of funds could not amount to reasonable excuse unless some unlawful event or act of God caused that insufficiency.

Mr Nigel Fleming for the commissioners; Mr Steptoe in person.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said that there was no justification for the commissioners' stance. The question of what would amount to a reasonable excuse could be safely left to the discretion of the VAT tribunals.

That approach might mean that different tribunals came to different conclusions on broadly similar facts but that was always a possibility when discretion was conferred on such bodies.

Solicitors: Solicitor to Customs and Excise.

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The NCVQ is the Government-sponsored body responsible for the creation and implementation of a coherent and readily understandable national framework of competence-based National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). NVQs provide evidence of and benchmarks for education and training which meet real employment needs.

We are looking for senior staff to work in our Research and Development Division. The work includes the development and co-ordination of research programmes and projects, providing guidance on principles and practice in the NVQ system, defining and monitoring quality assurance systems, and contributing to a wide range of presentations and publications.

Candidates should have established project management skills and should be familiar with the NVQ system, if possible through experience acquired by working directly with NVQs. Excellent written and spoken communication skills are also important.

Appointments will be made on one of the salary scales quoted above. The NCVQ's offices are in central London. Terms and conditions of employment are in line with those of the Civil Service, including an non-contributory (except for a 1.5% contribution towards dependants' benefits) index-linked pension scheme. Applications for secondments from other organisations are welcome.

Please write with a full CV and covering letter to Liz Hunter, 222 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BZ. Closing date for applications Friday 24 May 1991.

COLFE'S SCHOOL (SOUTH-EAST LONDON) SPORTS CENTRE MANAGER

Colfe's School is due to open in October, 1991, a Sports Centre to include a Hall, Pavilion and Swimming Pool. The Governors wish to appoint a manager as soon as possible.

Colfe's is a large independent day school of 900 pupils, with an established reputation for sport of all kinds. The Sports Centre Manager will be responsible for the new building, for appointing and supervising staff, for liaising with the Head of P.E. regarding the School's use of the Centre and for developing non-school use in the local community. The Governors are looking to appoint someone with experience in leisure management, who will adopt a dynamic and business-like approach to this exciting challenge. A generous salary and other benefits commensurate with age and experience will be offered. Further details and Application Form are available from the Headmaster's Secretary, Colfe's School, Horn Park Lane, London SE13 8AW. Tel: 081-852 2283. The closing date for applications is Friday, 7th May. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

Lichfield Cathedral School HEAD

Applications are invited for the Headship of this well established Preparatory School which educates some 200 boy and girl pupils (boarding and day), ranging in age from 4 to 13. They include the choristers of Lichfield Cathedral.

The post, which carries residential emoluments, will fall vacant in January 1992 but could, for the right applicant, be kept open another term.

Further details of the appointment may be obtained by writing to the Secretary to the Governors, The Deanery, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7LD. Closing date for applications 31st May, 1991.



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

There will be a new vacancy at the College from September 1991 (or January 1992) for a second

DEPUTY HEAD

in addition to the Deputy Headship currently held by Dr. T.E. Rogers.

The duties will be wide-ranging and will depend to some extent on the strengths of the appointee, but will certainly include assisting the Master on all matters relating to the welfare of girls as Marlborough continues to develop as a co-educational school.

The successful candidate will have an excellent track record in boarding education, including substantial experience of girls' education in at least one senior post of responsibility. Experience in walks of life other than education, and/or overseas experience could be an asset.

Further details are available from the Master's Secretary, Marlborough College, Wiltshire SN8 1PA (telephone 0672 515511).

Applications including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees should reach the Master as soon as possible and by 15th May at the latest.

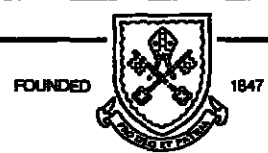
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Applications are invited for the post of full-time Bursar of the College. The Bursar has responsibility for all the financial and administrative aspects of the College's life and is centrally involved in College policy and planning.

Salary will be within the range of £27,626-£32,663

The ideal candidate is likely to be a graduate, experienced in management and financial control, familiar with University administration, with diplomatic and negotiating skills and experience of computerised office technology. The person appointed will be eligible for election to a Fellowship of the College.

Further particulars are available from the Master's Secretary, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge CB2 1RH. Applications, together with the names and addresses of not more than three referees, should reach the Master by 31 May, 1991.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF ST. PETER ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The present Headmaster, Dr. A.J. Shinkfield, A.M., will relinquish his position in April 1992.

The Council of Governors of the School seeks the names of those persons who are interested and who might be considered suitable for appointment to the position of

THE HEAD of the SCHOOL

As well as direct applications, suggestions from others giving the names of suitable persons will be welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to -

The Secretary
Council of Governors
Collegiate School of St. Peter
Box 480, G.P.O., ADELAIDE
South Australia 5001

briefly stating personal particulars of applicants or likely applicants, including education, experience and the date when it would be convenient to commence duty. All enquiries will be treated in absolute confidence.

Those writing will be sent further particulars about the School and the conditions of appointment. The salary and conditions will be at a level commensurate with a School of the size, standing and tradition of St. Peter's College.

The School has an enrolment of 1100 boys, 350 in the Preparatory School and 750 in the Senior School. There are 140 boarders, mainly in the Senior School. The Head must be a Clerk in Holy Orders or a lay communicant member of the Anglican Church.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BY 14TH JUNE, 1991.



Doncaster College IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HOME OFFICE AT HER MAJESTY'S PRISON MOORLAND

LECTURER GRADE POSTS

This new post provides the opportunity to join the supportive and stimulating environment of the College in its purpose built facilities. Initially working with 16 to 20 year age groups, candidates should be enthusiastic, imaginative and practical, with a proven ability to communicate with this age group and have a commitment to people in custody.

Applications are invited for six full time permanent and two one year temporary posts.

Post No.1 English and Drama - To develop skills of verbal and written communication, and to stimulate an interest in literature and theatre.

Post No.2 Information Technology - To introduce and develop the concepts of Numeracy, Mathematics and Information Technology at all levels across the curriculum.

Post No.3 Humanities and Social Sciences - To foster an interest in awareness and understanding of the human world, and a knowledge of choices and decisions affecting individual lives. Applicants should have knowledge of the integration of History, Economics, Geography, Sociology, Economics, Politics and Psychology and should state their strengths.

Post No.4 Craft, Design and Technology - To develop a wide range of knowledge and practical craft associated skills through a range of media problem solving approach.

Post No.5 2D and 3D Art and Design - To develop a wide range of creative and practical skills and to foster an interest in the quality of their home lives and relationships inside and outside prison.

Post No.6 Home Economics and Life Skills - To develop a range of skills and knowledge which will enable inmates to improve the quality of their home lives and relationships inside and outside prison.

TEMPORARY POSTS - 1 YEAR FULL TIME APPOINTMENTS

Post No.7 Languages and Open Learning - To meet the needs of adult inmates to study a foreign language, to meet non-English speaking to learn English, and to utilise Open Learning methods to enable inmates unable to attend the Education Centre to follow a course of study.

Post No.8 Prison Studies and Career Guidance - To introduce inmates to the body of knowledge required to function in the world of business and to provide up to date guidance to assist them to be successfully self employed or become employed.

Salary within the range £10,000 to £18,285.

Application forms and further particulars available from Personnel Administration, Doncaster Prison, Doncaster, Yorkshire DN1 1JH.

SEK. TELEPHONE (01924) 522222 Ext 281 or 285.

APPLICANTS MUST INDICATE THE POST NUMBER WHEN REQUESTING FORMS AND DETAILS.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 9 MAY, 1991

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HMC Boarding and Day

500 boys: 65 Sixth Form girls

(Girls to be admitted throughout the school from 1992)

For January 1992 (or earlier if possible) a man or woman to take on the responsibilities of

UNDER MASTER and DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

This senior position in the management team will entail full responsibility to the Headmaster for the planning and organisation of all academic aspects of the school. Candidates should be academically well qualified and are likely to have had relevant organisational experience, including running a department.

Further details may be obtained from: The Headmaster, Repton School, Repton, Derby DE6 6FE (Tel: 0283 702375) to whom all applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two academic referees should be sent as soon as possible but not later than Friday 10th May.



CHILTERN NURSERY TRAINING COLLEGE

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

The Governors wish to appoint a Principal to manage this independent residential training College and to coordinate the 100 full-time students for N N E examinations. The College also provides a Nursery School, Day Care Nursery and a work place Nursery in purpose planned buildings in a pleasant suburb of Reading.

The vacancy will arise on the retirement of the present Principal and duties will commence on the 1st January 1992. Applicants should have held a responsible post in further education and have the qualities to give leadership to the College in its academic and business activities. The salary will be negotiable within the range £24,666 - £35,957 per annum. Further details of the post are available from the College Secretary at 14 Peppercorn Road, Reading, RG4 6JZ and applications should be sent together with a full curriculum vitae should be returned not later than 31st May 1991.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University Of Dundee

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES

Applications are invited for this newly-created post from candidates with extensive knowledge and experience of modern information systems. The post is available from 1 October 1991 and it is envisaged that an appointment will be made from that date or soon thereafter.

The University is implementing a major new information technology strategy, including the installation of a fibre-optic network across the campus, the introduction of an enhanced training programme for staff and students and the co-ordination of information handling and distribution throughout the University.

The Director will be required to work closely with Library, Computing Service and administrative staff in implementing this strategy and will be responsible for the development of the necessary training schemes. As the University's principal adviser on information technology, the Director will collaborate with heads of academic departments in making the University aware of the opportunities provided by new technologies for teaching and research.

This is a senior appointment in an exciting and challenging area of University management and the Director will be appointed on a professional equivalent salary scale at a level commensurate with the responsibilities undertaken.

Further particulars from, and applications in writing with CV (3 copies or, if posted abroad, one copy in a format suitable for photocopying), and the names and addresses of three referees to, Personnel Services, The University, Dundee DD1 4HL. Please quote reference ES17/78/1/T

Closing date: 31st May 1991

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

RUPERT MURDOCH PROFESSORSHIP OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the newly-established Rupert Murdoch Professorship of Language and Communication with effect from an early date as may be arranged. The salary of the professor is at present £31,000 per annum.

A non-seniority professorial fellowship at Worcester College is attached to the professorship.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 3 June 1991 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2AD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF READING

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Industrial Sociology from 1 October 1991. Candidates should have a good degree in a relevant social science subject.

Preference must be given to candidates with experience of developing research funding and links with industry. The successful candidate will also be an academic. A willingness to collaborate with other colleagues in teaching and future research projects will be given consideration. The appointee will teach in other related areas at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Salary scale Grade A £21,000 to £26,700 p.a. (under review). Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Telephone 07340 516761. Please quote Ref. AC20110. Closing date 31 May 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF READING

Department of History of Art

Applications are invited for a Lectureship from 1 October 1991. Candidates should have a good degree in a relevant social science subject.

Preference must be given to candidates with experience of developing research funding and links with industry. The successful candidate will also be an academic. A willingness to collaborate with other colleagues in teaching and future research projects will be given consideration. The appointee will teach in other related areas at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Salary scale Grade A £21,000 to £26,700 p.a. (under review). Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading, RG6 2AH. Telephone 07340 516761. Please quote Ref. AC20110. Closing date 31 May 1991.

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Tradition tugs the expatriates

Overseas missions have helped a school to beat the decline in boarding, reports

David Tytler

Recruitment of pupils from overseas is vital for most boarding schools to stay in business. Some headteachers look to expatriates and the wealthy middle class of the Far East in particular to yield a rich harvest of pupils.

Adrian Underwood became headmaster of Moira House school, Eastbourne, East Sussex, in 1975, which was the school's centenary year. He was 29, there were 140 pupils and the school was fighting for survival.

Since then, with the help of foreign recruitment, Mr Underwood has expanded Moira House to include extra buildings, a new house, a swimming pool and nearly 400 pupils. Other boarding schools for girls are facing hard times, even closure.

Moira House had a history of teaching the children of British parents working abroad, so foreign recruiting was a natural target for expansion. Mr Underwood made his first overseas trip in 1985 as a way of boosting numbers. "I was doing the same as everybody else," he says, "but I think I have changed the original concept."

Mr Underwood is careful to avoid criticism of his colleagues, but it is the case that many have not changed their approach, happy to cash in on the prestige of higher education in Britain and parents' nostalgia for the old country.

Mr Underwood now describes his biennial trips to the Far East and the United States as parental liaison visits. Although the trips are financed from the school's marketing budget he shies away from the word recruiting. About 10 per cent of his pupils are foreign nationals but together with the daughters of British parents living abroad they are vital to the school, taking up nearly half of the 170 boarding places in the 300-pupil senior school, paying fees ranging from £2,626 to £2,765 a term.

"I see their presence as a strength, not as a question of viability," he says. "They give a great quality to the school and when we talk about a different part of the world we usually have a girl who comes from there."

Against a general increase in independent education, 85 private



A girls' school goes international: Adrian Underwood, the headteacher at Moira House, with sixth-formers from all over the world

schools, mostly small junior or kindergartens, closed last year and 41 opened. This year at least four girls' boarding schools are to close. There has been a drop of almost 10 per cent in boarding since 1984, a trend that will be discussed at the annual meeting of the Boarding Schools Association, which starts tomorrow.

The schools are keen to maintain a balance between overseas and expatriate boarders and children based in Britain, but they are increasingly looking overseas for more pupils in an attempt to maintain numbers.

This is essential if a full range of GCSE and A-levels is to be offered, which is the main attraction for many parents, who see independent education as the route to British higher education.

About 60 per cent of the overseas and expatriate pupils come to Moira House through word-of-mouth recommendations from other parents, the remainder from Mr Underwood's foreign visits. A typical three-week trip to Kuala Lumpur, moving on to Singapore, Brunei and Hong Kong. Mr Underwood stays with parents or friends and is usually provided with an office by "very generous" parents.

The main group of parents is in the Far East and this gives them an opportunity to meet and talk — a

telephone call is not the same," Mr Underwood says.

"These visits are primarily so that parents can learn how their daughters are getting on."

He visits schools that have sent girls to Moira House in the past and talks to the staff about developments in British education. "They do feel isolated and want to know what is happening in education, and in the past five years that has been pretty exciting," he says. Mr Underwood also places a "discreet" advertisement in the region's quality newspaper announcing that he would be delighted to talk to parents who are interested in a British education for their daughters.

He says: "Of every 100 people I see, the school may see only 20 of their daughters, and that does not bother me. They may decide not to send their daughter away after all, or choose other schools. Many of them just want to talk."

Most of the overseas girls arrive at the school at 13, although a few come to join the sixth form. Mr Underwood says: "A British boarding school helps them to understand British life before going on to university or a polytechnic."

Howard Barlow, the senior master responsible for the sixth form and careers advice, agrees: "I think our education system is respected as a good standard while parents think America is too loose, and not just in what is taught. They do not trust America. Britain has a feeling for quality and there are better options open to the girls than if they stayed at home. They all work extremely hard."

"The parents tend to be in business and have very high

expectations. They look beyond their own country. British education offers them security, not just in academic standards. They know their daughters will be looked after properly."

There may be some nostalgia underpinning all this but it is not something I have heard put into words. British education carries a lot of weight at home."

Sarah Arnold, who wants to be a doctor, is 14 and came to the school when Mr Underwood met

her father in Hong Kong. Parti, her Chinese mother, was furious when one of her dinner party guests said it must be a relief to have shipped off her daughter as she could now play golf every morning. "The idea that parents get rid of their children to be able to spend more time at the golf course is far from the truth," Mr Underwood says.

Enid Tsui, who is 17, came from Hong Kong to do her A-levels. Her mother is a teacher and her father an education officer. "I had always been taught under the British system in Hong Kong and wanted a change," she says.

Melanie Soh-Banwell is 18 and was first educated in Malaysia before joining Moira House seven years ago because her parents were frequently moving from country to country. Her mother is from Guyana and the family home is now in Hong Kong. Melanie hopes to go to Aston university in September to read business studies and computer science.

Most of the girls said they had chosen Moira House themselves after looking at various prospectuses and visiting the school.

Mr Underwood believes his school offers a good alternative to a family life and says: "No marketing exercise will get you anywhere unless the school is right and parents are happy with what they are paying for."

Boys Girls Total

1984 77,100 41,700 118,800

1988 71,400 42,200 113,600

1990 67,800 40,700 108,500

Forgetful Clarke

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, seemed to take to heart the allegation by Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, that he was spending too little time at the chalkface. Little more than a week after Mr Straw's complaint to the prime minister, Mr Clarke visited a school, a further education college and a university, all in two days.

Not all went smoothly. At the Jewish Free School in Camden, north London, Mr Clarke dropped in on a sixth-form economics class, where he told pupils he had an A-level in the subject. Asked what grade, he suffered the memory lapse now common among politicians.

More barred

MORE children are being classed as "difficult" and barred from schools because of bad behaviour, reports a survey for BBC's *Public Eye* programme. Since 1981 the number judged to have emotional and behavioural difficulties has increased in 40 local education authorities and fallen in only one.

Computer-wise

THE Universities Funding Council (UFC) is to invest £2 million in the development of computer systems that will try to model the way leading academics in a variety of fields approach problems and communicate their ideas. Nine universities will use knowledge-based systems to tackle projects that include the design of dentures, timetabling the use of telescopes and checking citations against bibliographies.

The UFC received 90 applications to participate in the programme, which aims to extend the use of knowledge-based systems beyond their normal habitat of artificial

intelligence laboratories into industry and higher education. The computers break new ground by capturing explicitly an individuals' knowledge or expertise.

Fair signs

THE recession has not dissuaded employers from signing up for Directions '91, Britain's biggest careers and higher education fair for graduates and school-leavers. The third fair, at Olympia, west London, from June 27 to 29, already has 177 exhibitors. Directions, sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, drew more than 25,000 students last year. Exhibitors this year range from the employment department's training credit unit to Euro-Disney. Enquiries are being handled by Kate Dowson and Cindy Pooles on 081-940 5668.

Silence is best

ACCORDING to a guide issued today by the Associated Examining Board, talking to friends before or after an exam can damage performance. Friends may make a candidate nervous when calmness is essential; post-mortems distract attention from the next paper.

How to do better in Exams, free from the guide's sponsors, Barclays Bank, Freeport (GR 1945), Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL17 1BR.

Class-toppers

BRITAIN's first full-time foundation course to train musicians for the pop business is topping the charts. John Conlon and Jodie Hawkes, two of the 25 students selected by the West London Institute of Higher Education from more than 500 applicants, had five weeks at number one as members of Chesney Hawkes's backing band. Both will tour with the band in the summer vacation before returning to complete the two-year course.

JOHN O'LEARY



Sounds good: Jodie Hawkes (left) and John Conlon hit No 1

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* Research findings as reported in the Financial Times

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The University invites applications for a Lectureship in Law, tenable from 1st September 1991. Applications are welcome from candidates with expertise in any area of law but experience in the teaching of any of the following subjects would be desirable: succession, Trusts, Tort and Contract.

Salary will be at an appropriate point on either the Lecturer Grade A scale: £12,086 - £16,755 or Lecturer Grade B scale: £17,455 - £22,311 p.a., according to qualifications and experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, The University, 6 Kensington Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, with whom applications (3 copies), together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged not later than 24th May 1991.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
(* Source: UK NRS July 1990 - December 1990)

Chairman goes as Platon warns

PLATON International, the USM instrumentation group, has announced board changes and issued a warning that it will report a loss for the year to end-March.

James Butterfield, the chairman for the past two years, is stepping down, and will be replaced by Robin Meyer on May 16. Mr Meyer, who will serve as deputy chairman until the handover, is a director of Thompson Clive & Partners, Platon's biggest shareholder.

Alby Vigar has also resigned as managing director of the UK division.

CRT set for scholarship

CRT Group, the training, recruitment and consultancy business, is this week expected to announce that it will be funding a doctoral or post-doctoral scholarship at Manchester Business School to support a student researching the "knowledge industries".

A non-executive director of CRT is Sir Douglas Hague, an academic and member of Mrs Thatcher's think-tank on education and training, who has said Britain is in danger of falling behind in various emergent industries.

The CRT scholarship will encompass work on research and development, and design, information, especially computer software, television and video, education and training. "The replacement of traditional industries by knowledge businesses is important, not only for business, but for politics and the media," Sir Douglas said. "However, the lack of reliable information about the knowledge industries hampers public debate considerably."

Quarto buys Sharpe Studios

Quarto Group, the publishing and production services concern, has bought a photographic company located in west London for £240,000, of which half has been paid on acquisition.

Sharpe Studios, which specialises in photography, exhibition graphics and colour laboratory services, will be integrated into Quarto's existing marketing support and production services operation. The vendors, the existing management, are staying with the company.

Manpower figures slump

Manpower, the employment group based in Wisconsin, reports that pre-tax profits slumped from \$14.12 million to just \$29,000 in the first quarter to March 31. Mitchell Fromstein, the chairman, blamed the recession in the company's three main markets, America, Britain and France.

MMEC seeks refinancing

Merchant Manufacturing Estate Company, the USM property developer, is unable to meet the April interest payments on part of its £13.6 million bank borrowings. The company is in talks with its bankers about a financial reconstruction.

Hughes deal

Hughes Food, the USM food company, is selling one of its subsidiaries to John Hughes, the former chairman, who resigned in February. Mr Hughes is paying £400,000 for JH Food Machinery, roughly equivalent to the liabilities of the company. The deal is subject to the approval of the independent shareholders. Mr Hughes has a 29 per cent stake in the group.

Why the TUC is distancing itself from the Labour party in this week's Towards 2000 policy review

Trading in the carthorse for a Toyota

Industrial Editor Philip Bassett assesses if unions can drag a falling membership into the next century

Just outside Derby, on 280 acres, the next key industrial test for the future of Britain's trade unions is heading towards completion.

Toyota's new car-making plant at Burnaston will provide 3,000 new jobs for the United Kingdom — and will give the clearest possible signal about the standing and prospects for trade unions in British industry.

Next month, senior Toyota managers are likely to decide whether its new £700 million car plant in Britain, where the first of what will be an annual production of 100,000 cars will roll off the assembly line in December next year, will recognise a union.

In recent years, British unions have failed this test on a number of occasions, sometimes spectacularly: Ford's decision not to build a plant at Dundee, largely because of

'Almost half of all pay rises are not won as a result of collective bargaining'

inter-union wrangling, was only the most notable.

Though Nissan recognises a union at its Sunderland plant (though membership of the AEU engineering union there is still low), Honda decided not to do so at its new £300 million car plant in Swindon.

Given British trade unionism's concentration in the kind of sector a car plant typifies — male-dominated, blue-collar, manufacturing industry — and its relative failure still to make deep inroads into organising the British private services sector, winning recognition at Toyota will be vital for the unions.

Toyota is almost certain to reject Honda's non-union option, and in September, after two years' careful work talking to just about everyone with a view on British unions, Toyota managers will parade the applicant unions before them to make their decision about which will win the Derby plant and its sister engine factory at Shotton, Chwyd.

The Toyota test is a perfect example — larger and more important than most, but in essence no different to what many companies now feel about trade unions in Britain — of where a range of political, legislative, industrial and social changes have left British trade unions in the Nineties.

But in advance of the Toyota test, Britain's senior trade union leaders will meet this week to wrestle with what role there is now for unions

and for the unions' umbrella body, the Trades Union Congress, in the light of the sweeping and fundamental changes in the labour market over the last decade.

A special conference to be held by the TUC in London on Wednesday will try to edge the unions and the TUC itself "Towards 2000", as the TUC is calling its review exercise which some TUC leaders feel poses the most searching questions about unions and the TUC since the talismanic Donovan Royal Commission of the late Sixties. Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, will lead the soul-searching.

The problems facing trade unions in Britain can barely be overstated. At the core of them are the unions' huge membership losses throughout the past decade. Since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, trade union membership has suffered its longest sustained fall ever (though the fall of 1926-1933 was deeper).

In 1979, membership was 13.3 million. A decade later, the latest official figures put it at 10 million. Continuing losses since the last official data will have pushed membership below 10 million for the first time since 1963.

The graph shows the scale of the fall — and shows too, that the membership fall of recent years has been accompanied by an increase in union popularity, the proportion of people who believe unions are a good thing, perhaps suggesting that public opinion is generally more favourable towards unions as they become weaker and less significant players in the economy.

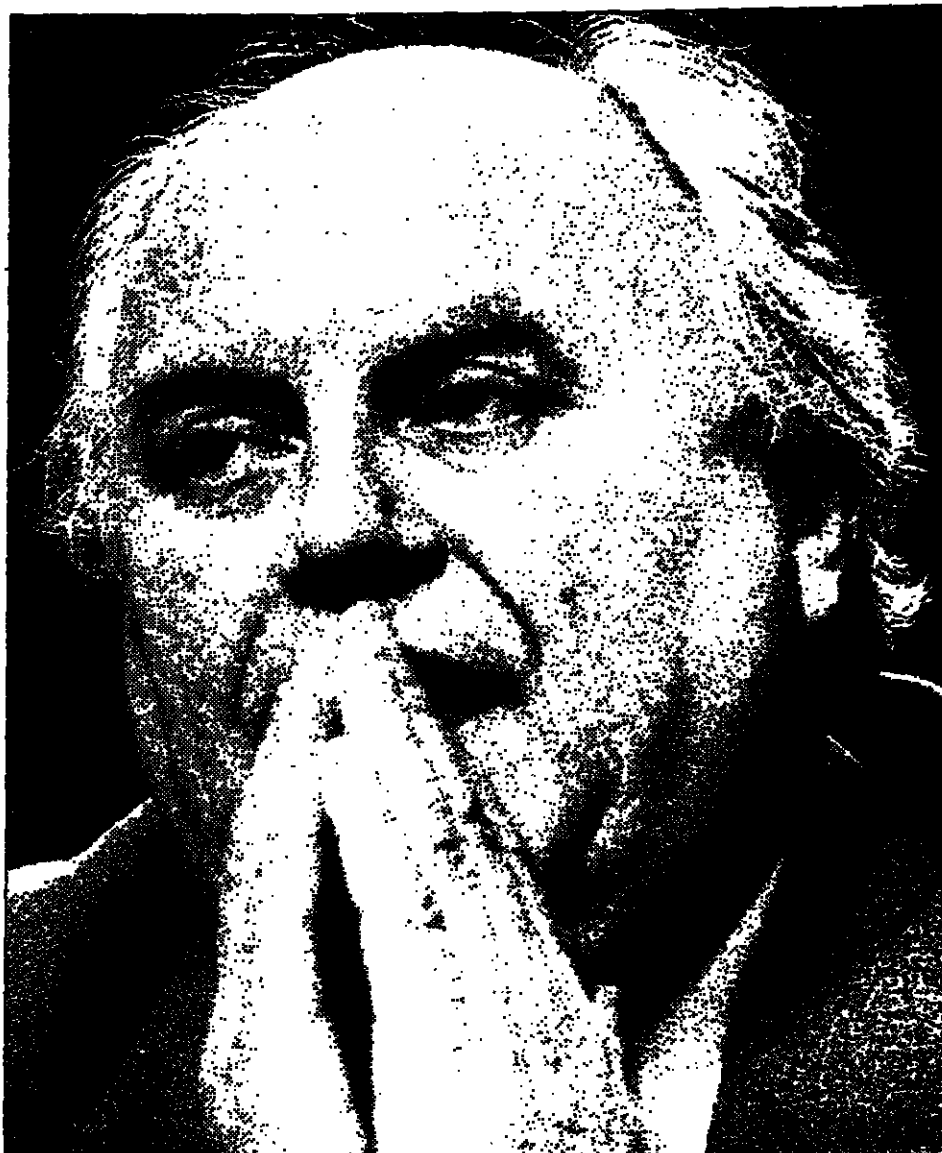
The figures are particularly bad because the unions, hit hard again by the wave of job losses in this recession, obtained no advantage in the period when the economy was in better shape.

As employment started to grow in the mid-Eighties, union membership continued to decline: the total labour market was growing, but the unionised slice was not.

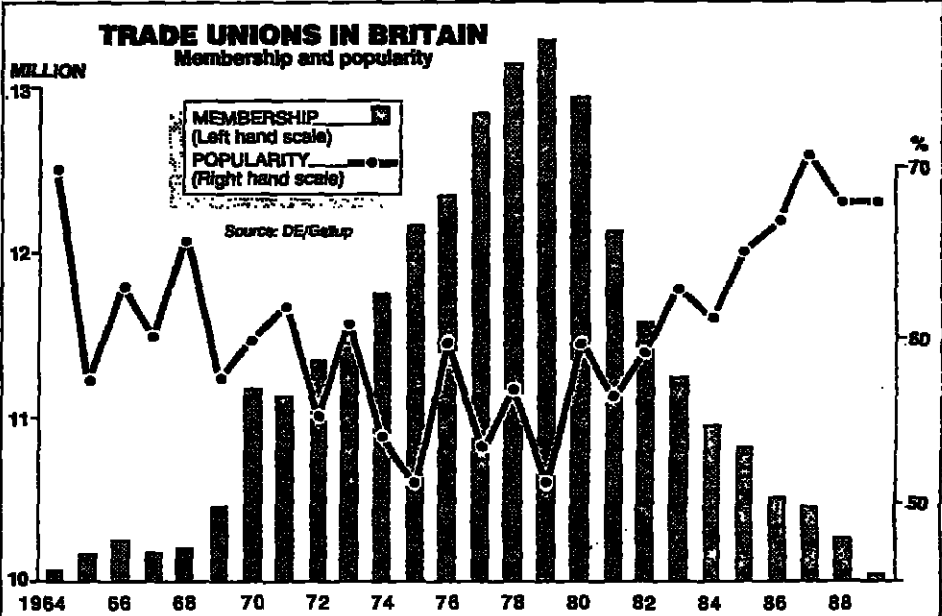
Flowing from the membership fall, and driving it too, were other developments. Winning recognition from companies proved at first difficult, and then close to impossible. Union density, the proportion of employees in unions, fell to the point where in the private sector it is now about 28 per cent.

Public sector strength kept overall density levels up, but it was often high in industries such as coal and steel which now account for a tiny proportion of workers.

The unions' natural base dwindled with growing af-



Soul-searching: Norman Willis will pose the most penetrating questions since the Sixties



fluence. In 1964, 35 per cent of the working class were union members. By 1987, only 27 per cent of the by then numerically much smaller working class were in a union. Home and share ownership, more white-collar, women and part-time workers, and the redistribution of industry from the old citadels of the North and Midlands to the South all played their part in

slicing away the foundations. Although investments in the booming stock market of the late Eighties kept union finances up reasonably well, membership decline has pushed many into deficit — £9 million for the TGWU transport workers, £11 million for the MSF general technical union — leading to cost-cutting programmes and retrenchment at a time when the need to spend money to

enrol new members has probably never been greater.

Fuelled by econometric evidence about the negative impact of unions on pay, productivity, profitability, employment and investment, and by the Conservative government's extensive programme of employment legislation, a number of companies marginalised their unions by increasingly sophisticated employee relations methods.

These included the growing influence of the individual-based and grandly named American code of human resource management.

Some — perhaps as many as 13 per cent of all companies, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research — withdrew collective bargaining and kicked their unions out. Now almost half of all pay rises are not won as a result of collective bargaining.

Battling with them every day at workplace level, Britain's unions have tried twice before in recent years to mount a strategic response. The first, in 1983, called TUC Strategy, collapsed amid the banning of unions at GCHQ Cheltenham and the defeat of the year-long miners' strike.

The second, the TUC's Special Review Body set up towards the end of the Eighties, produced some frank and impressive analysis but its practical manifestation of two TUC-led recruitment campaigns in London's Docklands and Manchester's Trafford Park produced very few members at a high cost.

TUC leaders deny the point, but the Towards 2000 exercise is much more internal. If the two previous moves largely failed to stem the tide running against the unions, Towards 2000 is more dedicated to trying to rectify some of the unions' and the TUC's obvious inefficiencies.

John Lyons, a TUC general council member, says the balance of the TUC is quite wrong. From the annual TUC Congress, he says, someone would never know that the TUC was anything but a protest organisation. "I would like to see the TUC do a good deal less and do what it has to do much more effectively."

Wednesday's conference will be about prioritising tasks, money and people to deal with the challenges to unions thrown up by the radical changes of the last decade. Significantly, though, Towards 2000 is pointedly and perhaps painfully apolitical: the TUC's scene-setting report to the conference does not mention the Labour party, and Norman Willis's address to the conference is likely to strike the same note, emphasising the need for unions to work with governments. "We can't now put all our eggs solely in the Labour party basket," says one senior union leader.

Politically, the time may finally be ripe for the unions to make such a move — though union leftwingers will decry it. In the long years of Margaret Thatcher's premiership, trade union leaders were in 10 Downing Street on no more than a handful of occasions.

Since John Major became prime minister, Mr Willis has been into No 10, being greeted politely and even warmly by Mr Major, who went so far as

to show the delegation Mr Willis was leading round the Downing Street picture collection and into some of its staterooms.

But though the deep permeant of the Conservative union relations of the Thatcher years may now be thawing at the edges, much of the unions' most difficult work still lies ahead with the Labour party.

Labour leaders were astonished when a TUC proposal on future law on union recognition steered away from the ballot-based democracy with which the Conservatives had enjoyed such success in the union field, and which has been enthusiastically accepted by union members. A revised version will be considered by union leaders later this month.

The Labour leadership is largely being cautious, too, about the unions' awkward efforts to find unanimity around the idea of a National Economic Assessment to deal with pay and related issues.

Union left-wingers see it as

'We can't now put all our eggs solely in the Labour party basket'

a covert incomes policy, while right-wing craft unions are suspicious that it will try to compress high-pay differentials in favour of a statutory minimum wage for low-paid workers.

But even though some leaders of unions such as the AEU are readying further attacks on it, there is now general agreement among unions with the idea of reducing British inflation — pushed up considerably by wage costs — to German levels over a three-year period.

Inevitably, this week's conference will have other sub-currents. For instance, with the current rash of union elections in the TGWU, in the merged print unions, in the MSF and elsewhere, some electoral candidates will use the opportunity to raise their voting profile. But the unions know the scale and seriousness of their difficulties, and the fact that however hard they work, the employment hammer blows of the current recession are making them worse still.

The potential members at Toyota are worth having, and the unions will strive hard to win them. But with more than 80,000 jobs — probably the bulk of them unionised — gone in manufacturing alone in the first three months of this year, for the unions the Toyota deal is a drop of water trying to fill a fast-emptying bucket.

The unions may find Towards 2000, though for them a worthy and necessary effort, too inadequate to staunch the flow.

GPT signs joint payphone deal with Bulgarians

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

GPT, the GEC/Siemens-owned telecommunications equipment company, has won a contract to supply public payphones in Bulgaria.

Under a contract, signed at the Bulgarian Embassy in London, a joint venture company has been formed between GPT and the Bulgarian Committee of Posts, Telecommunications and Information (CPTI).

The joint venture is the first that CPTI has entered into with a western company and follows a successful field trial of GPT payphones in Sofia, the Black Sea holiday resort.

The phones will be the first direct dial international payphone service in country, said Mr Brooks.

Details of the scheme follow news of other projects in eastern Europe including the installation of GPT payphones in Moscow, orders from Yugoslavia and a trial planned in Hungary.

Dunn 'close to being sold'

DUNN & Co, the menswear group put up for sale at the end of January, is close to being sold (Gillian Bowditch writes). The group, under Ronald Hale, the chairman, is in discussions with Ayrhouse, newly formed by Rob Lees. The parties have agreed not to talk about the negotiations, but Mr Hale believes they will be concluded by the first week in June.

Mr Lees is a former director of Fosters and William Smith, the menswear business. Fosters is part of the Sears menswear business.

Britain still has a great deal to gain from Japanese transplants

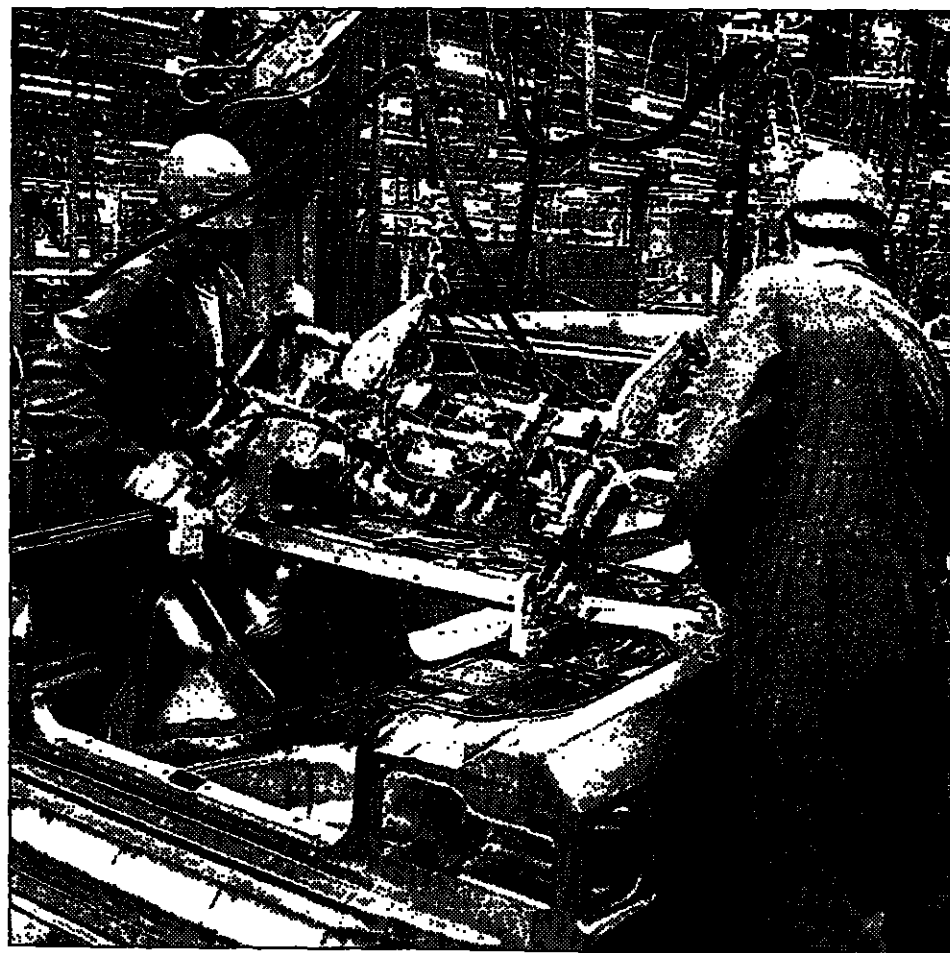
By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is still the main beneficiary of the Japanese investment boom in Europe, with another 145 manufacturing projects over the past year. Germany is increasingly benefiting from high-technology investment.

The "new Europe" is expected to gain from another wave of Japanese investment in the coming years, as Japanese firms get the measure of eastern Europe. This wave will feature service industries strongly, with Japanese entries in the advertising, retail, clothing and fashion and information technology sectors, according to a new Economist Intelligence unit report: *Japan and the New Europe: Industrial Strategies and Options for the 1990s*, by Professor Geoffrey Bowles.

Meanwhile, unless Britain shows more enthusiasm for Europe, it will be unable to ally Japanese concerns that their investments may end up on a European offshore island with only mixed chances of entry to the mainland for their products. The continuing Brussels showdown over the entry to Europe of Japanese cars made in England has only served to confirm that those fears are real.

Britain has maintained its position as the favoured destination for investment but, with the growing maturity of car manufacturing projects, there is likely to be a shift to more investment in such lines as office automation equipment and communications electronics. In these two fields, the Japanese will meet 63 per cent of global demand by the end of the decade, while



Sunderland success: the Nissan factory gave the Northeast a much-needed boost

production at transplants in Britain and elsewhere will grow at an annual 10.6 per cent over the decade to account for 17.3 per cent of global demand.

Equally impressive are the figures for consumer electronics — by the end of the century Japan will satisfy 47 per cent of global demand, with trans-

plants providing 12 per cent. Japanese car makers in Britain will be contributing to an annual total of 1.8 million cars a year by the end of the decade with Nissan, Toyota and Honda reaching their full production targets in Britain, to be joined by Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Suzuki and Isuzu in Europe. Japanese

makers will be supplying 20 per cent of the European market by the year 2000.

Equally encouraging for Britain is the rapid increase in the number of research and design centres being set up. By the end of January, the total in the EC and European Free Trade Association countries had doubled to 140.

ISE fund debate continues

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE government and International Stock Exchange are still completing the details of the compensation fund to protect investors when the Taurus electronic share settlement scheme becomes operational next year.

The fund is seen as a crucial confidence-building component of the Taurus reforms, not least for the benefit of small investors who will miss the reassurance of owning a paper certificate. The fund will cover losses both through fraud and technical faults.

The size of the compensation fund has to be decided. The government is thought to be seeking a higher sum than the Stock Exchange. However, the trade department has downplayed reports that its preferred figure is 20 times that of the Stock Exchange.

"The DTT's concern is that investors have to be protected, but a balance has to be reached between protecting the investors and imposing undue burdens on the financial services industry generally," the department said.

Move by Coats

Coats Vivella, the textile group bidding £194 million for Tootal, is moving thread production at its Ochsensburg factory in Austria to two plants in Italy and Portugal under a European rationalisation programme to make annual savings of more than £2 million and asset sales realising £2.5 million this year. At the same time, Coats will invest £1.5 million in a factory near Lisbon for its Opti Group offshoot, the world's second biggest zip manufacturer acquired in 1989. Opti is now in Coats' threads division.

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Howard carries his worker-involvement plan to EC ministers

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government will today put to European employment ministers its proposals for creating greater involvement for employees in the way their companies are run.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, will seek approval from the European Community for his package of measures aimed at promoting greater employee involvement in companies by voluntary means.

Some EC ministers see the British plan as a clear attempt to deflect the proposals already promulgated by the European Commission as part of the social action plan - the enactment of the so-called social charter. That plan was originally put forward by Jacques Delors, the EC president, to ensure greater protection of workers' rights across Europe, as the Community moves towards the single market at the end of 1992.

The Commission's directive, largely modelled on French and German practices, would create a requirement for some businesses to establish European works councils. Companies above a stipulated size and with operations in several EC member states would have to set up the European-wide councils to provide information and consultation on issues affecting employees in more than one state. Companies and their employees which failed to

reach agreement within a year on the scope of a European works council would see the automatic application by the Commission of legally defined minimum requirements for information and consultation.

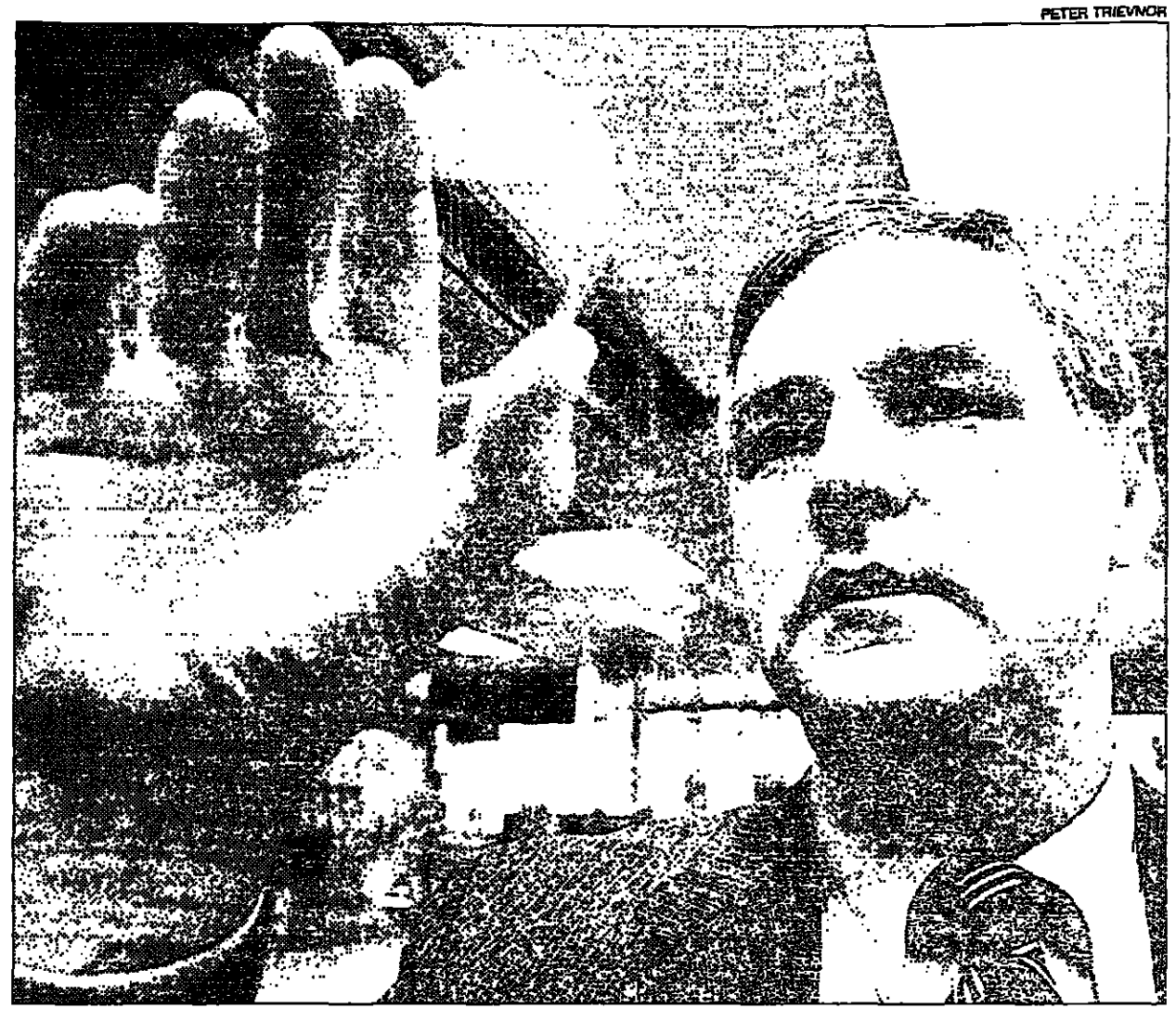
Business and industry leaders in Britain have widely attacked the proposal.

Mr Howard, who flew to Luxembourg yesterday for the two-day informal meeting of the EC Social Affairs Council, said his plan offered "a practical, flexible, alternative approach to that of the legislative strait-jacket which would be imposed by the binding directive" from the Commission.

The British government's strategy, he said, would create an agenda for employee involvement practices "based on flexibility and respect for the diversity of approaches adopted in the different member states."

Mr Howard's plan contains five principal points, which are aimed at generating employee commitment towards business success, enabling businesses to adapt to changing market circumstances, increasing employee satisfaction in their work, improving performance and productivity by drawing on employees' skills and experience, and providing all employees with the opportunity of contributing to the development of the company.

Some Whitehall observers



Clear vision: Gus McPhie, LensCrafters' managing director, aims to have 70 stores in Britain within two years

Instant 'optician' opens two new stores

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LENSCRAFTERS, the American optical group that is a subsidiary of US Shoe Corporation, is opening two stores on Tuesday in Croydon and Richmond, in Surrey, increasing the number of LensCrafters outlets in Britain to eight.

The group, which has in-store lens grinding laboratories, aims to offer spectacles to 95 per cent of its customers within an hour of their being ordered, and contact lenses on the spot to three-quarters of its customers.

Gus McPhie, managing director of the British operation, says that while it is expensive for the group to have a laboratory in each shop, the increase in sales resulting from it covers the extra costs.

He says the group checks other opticians' prices regularly to ensure its products are competitively priced.

The group, which has 450 LensCrafters stores worldwide, mostly in America and Canada, aims to have around 70 stores in the United Kingdom within the next two years.

Holmes to pay \$500,000 to former chief

By MARTIN BARROW

HOLMES Protection, the troubled New York security concern whose shares are listed in London, must pay its former joint chief executive \$500,000 in compensation for the loss of office.

The payment to David James, who resigned from the board last month, increases to almost \$8 million the severance payments to former directors met by the company in just two years.

Terms of the compensation will disband Holmes' 3,000 British shareholders, who have seen the value of their shares slump from 187p in mid-1987 to just 3p amid growing concern about the company's future.

Holmes has missed two payments on a \$61 million loan note, and institutional shareholders in London, including Brown Shipley, Hill Samuel, Prudential and Scottish Amicable, fear a crucial disposal to raise funds may not be completed.

Alert Centre, a privately owned American company, has until Wednesday to raise between £17.5 million and \$18.5 million to acquire Holmes's New Jersey operation.

The deadline has been already extended by 90 days from February 7.

Mr James, appointed in March 1990, resigned as joint chief executive at the beginning of April and as a director

later in the month, shortly before Holmes published annual results which were qualified by the auditors subject to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

He is the latest in a long list of directors who have left Holmes since May 1989, beginning with Mark Wiener and Berry Packham, American executives.

They were followed by Brian O'Connor and Tom Forrest, chairman and vice-chairman respectively. Ernest Potter was chairman before leaving for family reasons.

These departures have cost Holmes dear at a time when it can least afford it.

The company lost \$20.31 million in 1989, and although profits of \$4.02 million were reported in 1990, these included a \$5.05 million surplus from asset sales. The dividend was passed.

In January and March Holmes failed to meet repayments of \$24.6 million owed to its lenders, a consortium of American insurance companies.

Thomas Meyer, the present chairman, and John Flack, now sole chief executive, hoped to complete the New Jersey disposal to reduce borrowings. They propose the conversion of the outstanding debt into equity. It is yet to be seen whether this proposal will be sympathetically received.

Close Brothers starts US move in historic city

By MARTIN WALLER

CONCORD, Massachusetts, is on the face of it an unusual place for a British bank to base its expansion into America.

The claim to fame of this city, outside Boston, is that here was fired "the shot that was heard around the world" - the opening skirmish of the war of independence.

Concord is the base of a specialist operation run in America by Close Brothers, the small London merchant bank, which finances commercial insurance premiums. Close set up its own Prompt (premium on monthly payment terms) business in Britain more than a decade ago, but started in America only last year.

Premium financing is already bigger business in America than anywhere else.

Peter Stone, the Close director in charge of Prompt, says that while there are only four firms offering the service in Britain, the state of Texas alone can boast no fewer than 400.

Close entered America via a

joint venture with an American insurance group, subsequently buying out the rest of the business.

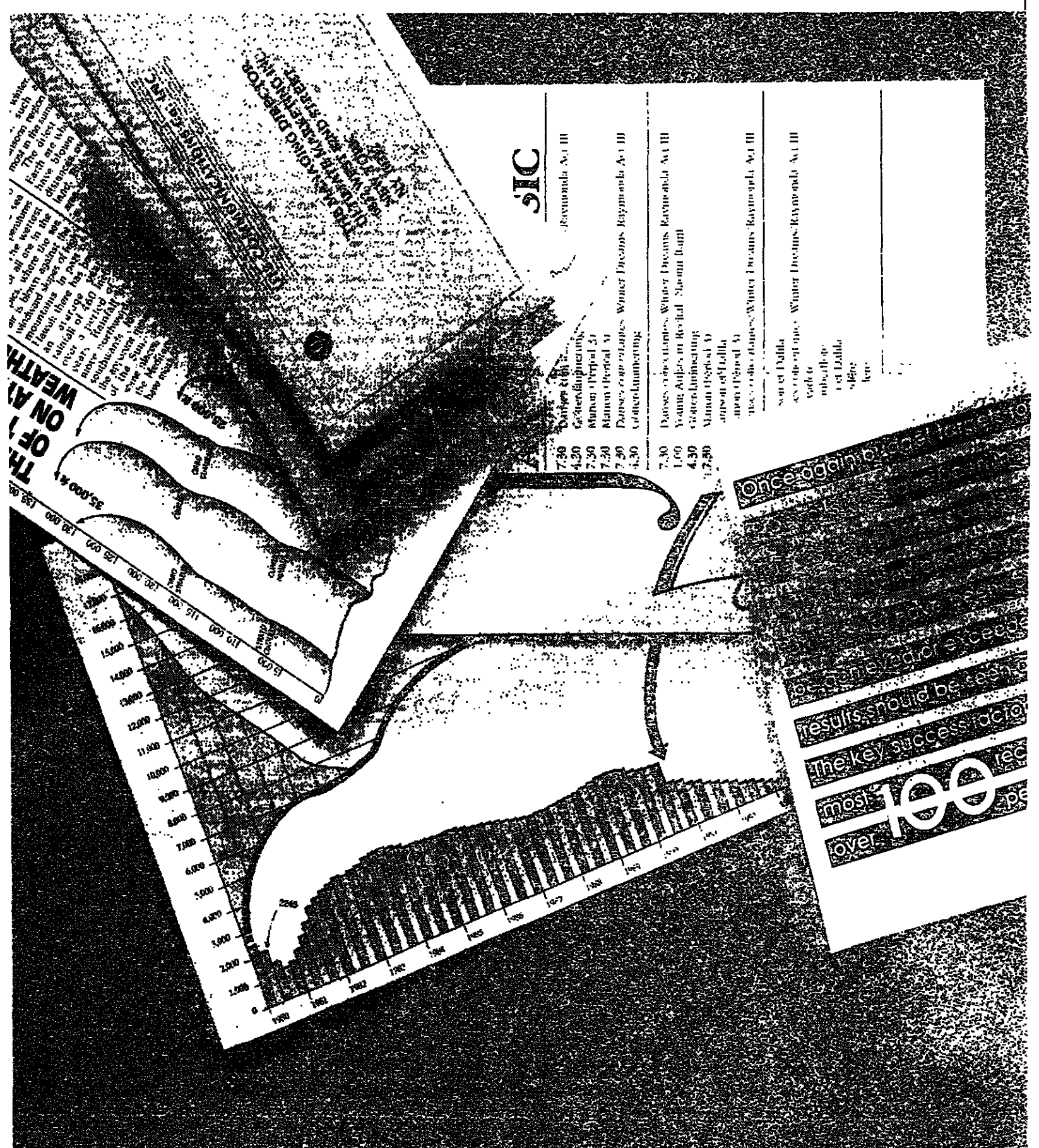
The recent \$3.7 million acquisition of Boston-based Allston Finance boosted the value of premiums financed by Close to \$15 million.

"More to the point, it has given us access to Allston's 400 introducing brokers in the States," says Mr Stone.

The British bank is now pondering a further American acquisition, of a large concern based on the East Coast, that would catapult it into the top ten premium financiers in volume terms.

Premium financing initially grew out of the need for companies to protect their cashflow by spreading the hefty costs of insuring plant and other assets over the whole year. In America now, however, almost half the business comes from private individuals who want to finance insurance premiums on, for example, cars, yachts and household contents.

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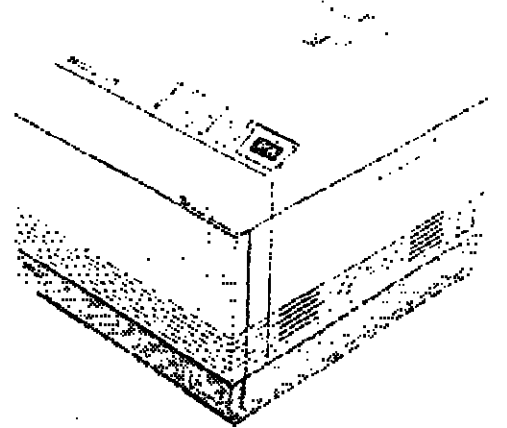
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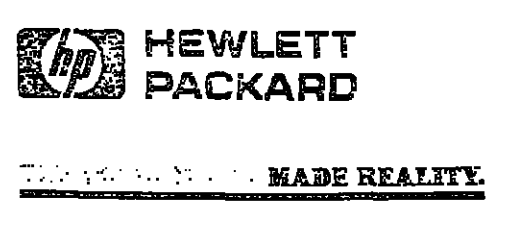
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MADE REALITY.

German jobless 'to rise by a million'

By JONATHAN PRYNN

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany will rise by more than a million on July 1 following the abolition of government support for short-term working in the former East Germany, the German economics minister forecast last night.

The German unemployment rate of 4.5 per cent is less than half the EC average, and figures due out this week for unemployment in what was West Germany are expected to show a further decline, with economic analysts predicting yesterday that seasonally adjusted figures for the region may fall in April by 90,000.

However, figures since full unification have not included the former East Germany. Jürgen Moelleman, Germany's economics minister, said the government would now be removing the principal mechanism for supporting the underemployed in the east.

Speaking on BBC's *The Money Programme*, he said the government was not prepared to extend its support to east Germans on short-term working after June 30. As a result, he said unemployment would jump by more than 1 million.

He said: "I think the figure could be 1.4 million to 1.7 million unemployed." However, he said the alternative would be for the government to spend "billions of deutschmarks in a very unreasonable way" in supporting "old bankrupt companies, enterprises, and to keep those enterprises alive".

Mr Moelleman also gave warning, however, of the consequences of high unemployment in the East. He said: "We have to avoid the situation where people will think about a new revolution."

Also on the programme, Birgit Breuel, newly elected head of the *Treuhandanstalt*, the holding company privatising and reconstructing eastern German industry, said some large employers still needed to be kept going in order to limit rising unemployment.

Warning against possible further social upheaval, she said: "You can't have unemployment of more than 50, 60 or 70 per cent. Then there won't be any hope for the people... we must find some social way of giving them a future."

Professor Hans Schneider, president of Germany's council of experts, said he feared the effects of a wage price spiral in Germany. To prevent it, the Bundesbank would have to raise interest rates, which could push Germany into recession.

Second-half profits surge forecast

City backs CBI and Lamont over recovery

By JOHN BELL, BUSINESS EDITOR

CITY investment analysts are expecting a sharp recovery in company profits from the middle of this year.

Latest forecasts suggest profits may rise by about 10 per cent in the second half of 1991 compared with the same period last year.

A review by *The Times* of regular monthly and weekly research published by leading investment firms shows companies are thought likely to bounce back from recession even more strongly next year when corporate profits may grow by 10 to 20 per cent.

City expectations on profits provide some support for the controversial Confederation of British Industry trends survey last Tuesday. They are also consistent with remarks by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, in Washington last week that the economy will begin to pull out of recession at the end of the second quarter.

The CBI's latest industrial trends survey, criticised for its more up-beat view of prospects, reported an upturn in business optimism, pointing to a possible recovery in economic output later this year. In particular, the survey indicated that manufacturers were less pessimistic about domestic and overseas orders than they had been three months previously.

The Times review showed that while City economists remained cautious about macroeconomic indicators such as output, investment and employment, analysts monitoring company performance were far more positive. These apparently conflicting views are by no means mutually exclusive.

Recessionary pressures on companies to cut employment and spending are helping to reverse a steep rise in unit labour costs since early 1989. This will dramatically improve the corporate sector's ability to trade profitably. But when indicators like profits and output begin to improve as a result, continuing job losses and cuts in capital spending will further depress

other economic statistics. Unemployment, in particular, may continue to rise long after the bottom of the economic cycle has passed.

The May monthly economic assessment compiled by UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, found that its economists and company analysts agreed on a recovery in profits. The macro-based forecast showed a sharp turnaround in profits through the course of this year on the basis of a substantial labour reduction leading to higher productivity and margins. "On that basis, analysts' expectations for 1991 are now realistic," says UBS.

The detailed UBS figures show that industrial profits are thought to have fallen by an overall 4 per cent last year, though this included a 10 per cent drop in the second half alone. The firm expects a 2 per cent rise in industrial profits this year. But the second half increase is estimated at 10 per cent. For 1992, UBS foresees another 10 per cent gain in industrial profits.

Barclays de Zotte Wedd has some divergence of opinion in its *May Investment Strategy Bulletin*. Company earnings forecasts derived from macroeconomic data suggest a 5 per cent decline this year and a 10 per cent rise next. The company analysts, however, look for a dire first half and a "very sharp bounce" leading to year on year growth of 5 per cent followed by a 13 per cent rise in 1992.

The EZW economists feel their analyst colleagues may



Lamont: consistent view

have underestimated the impact of recession on current year profits and may be over-optimistic about a recovery.

The May 2 investment strategy report by Salomon Brothers, the American investment house, is bullish on profits. It accepts Britain's economic recovery is likely to be slow and modest measured by what Salomon calls "often misleading official economic statistics".

The authors, Michael Howell and Angela Cozzini, say Mr Lamont has added his weight to those who favour business surveys as a guide to British economic performance. "The CBI survey has traditionally offered the best guide to future UK profits growth. The latest results point to a 1992 profits rise of around 20 per cent," they say.

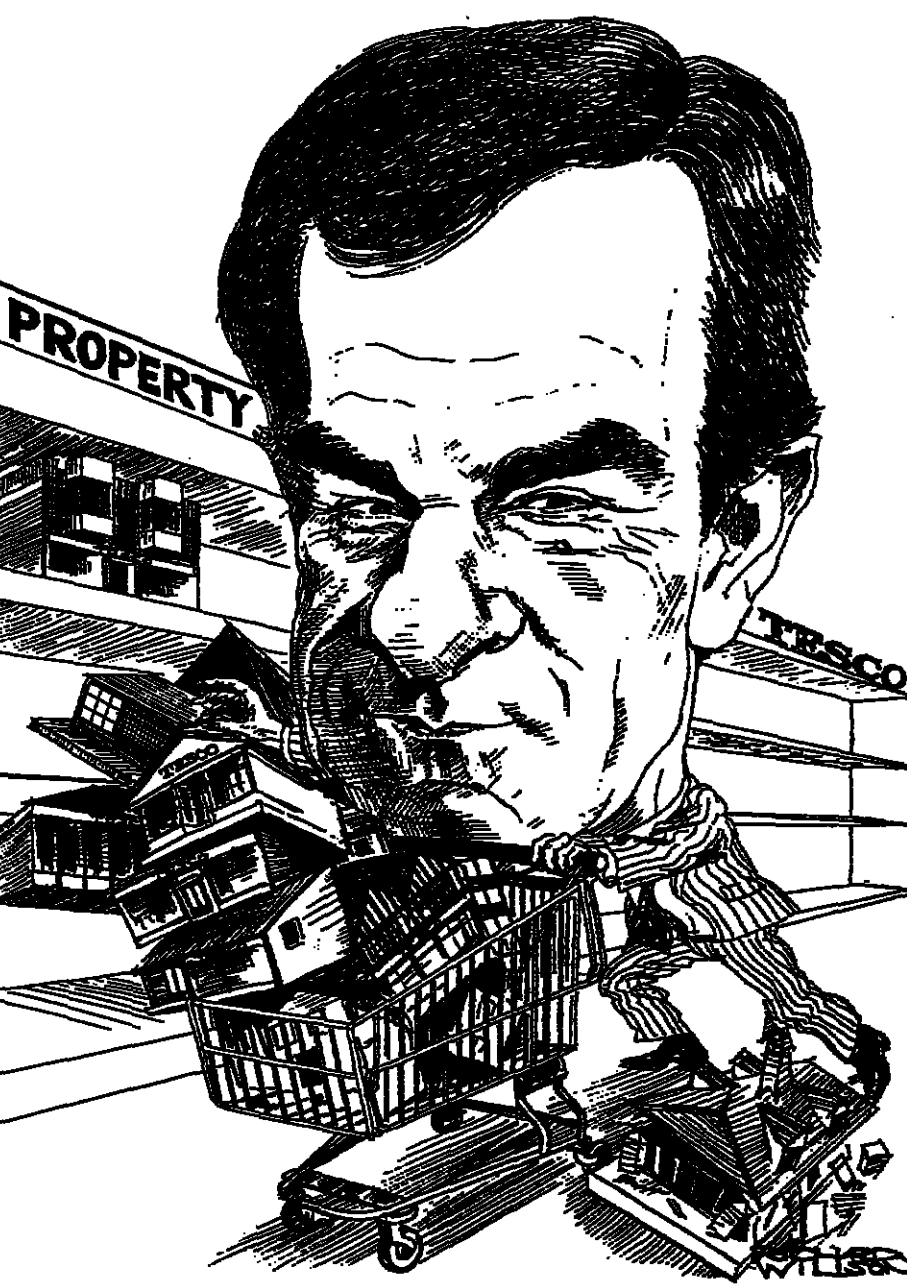
Mr Howell and Ms Cozzini argue that because the recession was triggered by a credit squeeze and loss of confidence, the recovery will move in step with lower interest rates and improving confidence. "Therefore, profits could rebound sharply," they add.

The May edition of County NatWest's book of company profit forecasts for professional investors published on Friday offers no analysis. But of more than 400 companies covered, 96 per cent are expected to raise profits in their next trading year.

Our survey of current City thinking this weekend is inevitably limited in scope and is open to the criticism that company analysts have a bias towards optimism, hence the frequent downgrading of profit forecasts seen as the recession deepened.

Furthermore, the companies analysed by leading brokers are not a random sample. They are typically bigger, more successful, have larger than average overseas interests and are more exposed to currency factors than a random selection. But if the forecasts of a brisk upturn in profits from the summer are borne out, it will be difficult to avoid the conclusion that the economy is entering the early stages of recovery.

Supermarkets warned on growth



Trolley dash for expansion: Sir Ian MacLaurin plans a £1.4 billion investment

Expansion 'could lead to slump'

By GILLIAN BOWITCH

British supermarkets could be facing a new slump if they maintain their large-scale expansion programmes, an analysis of the retail sector suggests today.

The analysis suggests that the slump that hit the retail sector in the late Eighties and led to the demise of such famous names as Lowndes Queensway, Coleridge, Lewis's department stores and A Goldberg & Son could be repeated by the supermarkets if they continue their big expansion plans.

Jeremy Allen-Jones, UK retail analyst at Salomon Brothers, the American investment house, believes the food retailing industry is set to move into its most congested stage in more than ten years as the big four, Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda, compete for market share.

He said: "Simple arithmetic shows that the expected market growth and the likely improvement in trading margins will not be enough to generate an adequate return on the current investment plans of the UK's four largest food retailers. Investors can no longer remain bullish on the entire food retailing sector."

Mr Allen-Jones's research comes in the wake of the £572 million rights issue by Tesco in February to fund new store development. Sir Ian MacLaurin, the group's chairman, who last year drew £1.48 million in salary and bonuses from the business, plans to spend £1.4 billion over the next two years on new stores.

But Mr Allen-Jones believes the massive capital expenditure by Tesco and the other supermarket groups is destined to lead to intense competition. He said: "To achieve even current returns, with margins under pressure, will send the retailers on a search for sales in the 1990s in a market showing negligible real growth. Future market share gains or margin enhancement will be much more difficult to achieve."

He believes the big four groups will have to achieve additional market share gains of 5.2 per cent each year in which net capital expenditure remains at its current level of £2.1 billion. This 5.2 per cent target appears to be an enormous task given the average 1.6 per cent gain over the past three years. To generate a post-tax return of 8 per cent, the generally accepted goal for new investment in the industry, the top four food retailers will require 100 per cent of the five market by the year 2004 if net investment remains at its current levels and operating margins are held. This is clearly an impossible target and something will have to give.

Mr Allen-Jones said: "I believe the food retailing sector will be derailed as the substantially higher risks attached to the expansion strategy and market share gains necessary to achieve the required returns become apparent."

The supermarket groups are likely to diversify into new areas such as non-food retailing and overseas markets to continue their hunt for profits. But Mr Allen-Jones says that even if they all stopped investing next year, 13 years of current market growth would be required to generate a return on the combined 1988-92 investment of the four biggest groups. The supermarkets are going to have to run exceptionally hard if they are not to become victims of their own success.

Worst of the recession has passed, reports 3i

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has passed the worst of the recession, according to a survey of corporate opinion published today, which shows a sharp upturn in business confidence.

The findings of the survey by 3i, the investment capital group, are in line with the recent predictions from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that economic recovery is just around the corner. And they are in tune with the more optimistic readings of last week's quarterly industrial trends survey from the CBI.

The optimism will also be reflected in a report from the Institute of Directors, out tomorrow, but contradicted by gloomy forecasts by the construction industry.

In a survey of 1,000 companies, 3i's "barometer" index, which summarises movements in the balances for questions on the business climate, rose by 6 per cent in the first quarter of this year - its first positive figure since January 1990. The index had previously declined during every quarter since June 1988.

3i acknowledges that the companies in its survey tend to be younger, and faster growing than most, and its study lacks the track record of other surveys. But 3i claims its index appears to have been effective in signalling the approach of the recession before rival forecasts.

Companies are also relatively optimistic about the end of the recession. Three quarters of those surveyed see the end in six to 12 months; 42 per cent think it will be over within six months. Some even believe it is over now.

Turnover expectations al-

ready show signs of recovery. On balance, 21 per cent more of the companies expect to increase turnover in the next quarter. The balance of those expecting to cut investment has improved from minus 21 per cent to minus 8 per cent.

But employment prospects are still declining. The balance of companies expecting to increase employment is still negative, at minus 3.5 per cent. This is considerably better than in January, when the figure was minus 13.2 per cent. Total employment among the companies surveyed is expected to fall by 3.4 per cent. 3i says the expected fall is almost entirely accounted for by a probable decline in jobs among companies in the South, suggesting

the recession is still biting hard there.

On pay, the 3i survey supports data from the CBI in suggesting that a number of companies are avoiding any pay increase at all this year. 3i finds that 96 per cent of companies made pay awards in 1990, but that only 90 per cent intend to do so this year - in line with the CBI's finding that one-in-ten firms are now pegging pay.

Where pay awards are given, they are likely to be lower, averaging 7 per cent, compared with 8.4 per cent in 1990. Companies recognising trade unions are more likely to give a pay rise than those that do not, but increases are higher in non-union companies.

Ex-minister slates revival forecast

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

A FORMER government industry minister has attacked the forecast by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, of an economic revival for Britain in the second half of the year.

Lord Trefgarne, at the industry department in 1989-90, told two trade association meetings, in Bath and Sutton Coldfield, that Mr Lamont's optimism about prospects for the economy was "premature". He said the Budget - which the Chancellor called a Budget for business - was insufficiently constructive as a package for industry.

Lord Trefgarne, now president of Metcom, which represents 4,000 members in the engineering sector, said the Budget would have been more helpful if it had provided for the restructuring of capital and stock allowances.

Metcom believes that recovery in the engineering sector is unlikely before spring next year. It says that output is still dropping and productivity is down despite falling employment. Lord Trefgarne added that the government was not giving enough priority to the engineering industry.

Lewis faces loss of Granada post

By MARTIN WALLER

THE long-running upheaval at Granada, the television, leisure and computer services group, should be resolved this week with a £100 million-plus rights issue, the sale of its bingo hall business and the eventual departure of the chief executive.

A senior merchant banker at SG Warburg, Granada's financial adviser, refused last night to confirm or deny weekend reports that one casualty of the long-awaited rights would be Derek Lewis, the chief executive.

Meanwhile, Alan Clements, a non-executive board member at Granada, has confirmed the sale of part of the leisure division is being considered.

Granada desperately needs to cut its debts, with gearing now soaring to approaching 100 per cent at a time when profits are under pressure.

Granada is now believed to have found a possible buyer for its bingo halls. The natural favourite is Bass, owner of the Coral chain, which is equal in size to Granada's bingo business. The deal would create a merged group with the muscle to take on the number one in the market, Rank Organisation, which bought Mecca Leisure Group last year.

The proceeds of the sale, a reported £150 million, would reduce Granada's borrowings and limit the size of the unpopular rights issue.

The CBI says London is by no means the dearest place to live

Where businessmen go to get the worst deal

By MARTIN WALLER

ITALIAN flats, Danish suits, Swedish eggs and Belgian haircuts may seem, at first glance, to have little in common but they all represent the worst bargains in Europe, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI, in conjunction with its sister organisations in 15 other European countries, has published the definitive guide to the cost of doing business. The aim is to help British companies assess and compare just how much it costs to set up an operation in the various capitals or major cities around the Continent.

Such surveys often unhelpfully conclude that London is

just about the most expensive place to live and work. The CBI fights shy of any such sweeping conclusion; what the reader gets instead is the detailed breakdown of the price of everything, from cars to Scotch whisky, rump steak to golf club membership.

Surprisingly, the London rented accommodation market, believed by many capital dwellers to be about the only opportunity for highway robbery and extortion to exist within the law, is by no means the most expensive in Europe. The CBI claims a two-bedroom flat is available in central London for between £190 and £270 a week, although it concedes that it is

"virtually impossible to rent unfurnished flats in London". In Milan the businessman can expect to pay the equivalent of £1,146 a month. A similar flat in The Hague would cost £330 a month and as little as £316 in Lisbon.

The report tilts at a number of other widely held misconceptions. The argument that the British pay more than some other Europeans for their cars is only partly true. A Ford Sierra would indeed cost just short of £10,000 in London and not much more than £8,000 in France or Germany. But the price in Belgium, that reported haven for the motoring bargain-hunter, lies somewhere be-

tween the two. Meanwhile the Norwegians would pay more than £17,000, the Danes not much less, and the Finns less than £10,000. It seems that in most other European countries a similar model would cost well in excess of £10,000.

A businesswoman could expect to pay an average £33 in Belgium for a hair-do, but a short drive across the border to Holland and a careful search would cut the bill to a mere £10.50.

Portugal is cheapest for suits, £138 off-the-peg for a good quality two-piece, and Denmark the priciest at £310. The report gives some ammunition to those exec-

utives angling for the next pay rise, although they may have to go abroad to clinch it. A sales manager earning £29,600 in London could earn up to £68,000 in Brussels and, perhaps surprisingly, £42,600 in Madrid. But avoid a posting to the Lisbon office, where the going rate is a mere £12,800.

Against that, the cheapest dates are apparently to be had in Portugal, where a night at the movies for two and a larger apiece afterwards would cost just £4.76. In Sweden, the tickets alone would cost more than twice that. And so, heaven help the Swedes, would the lager.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar	1.8930 (+0.0090)
German mark	2.9681 (+0.0128)
Exchange index	91.2 (+0.4)
FT 30 Share	1973.9 (+35.6)
FT-SE 100	2522.7 (+51.4)
New York Dow Jones	2938.86 (+26.48)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg	26477.86 (+354.18)

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